Maynard

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Humor through the years with Maynard Speece

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Maynard

Humor through the years with Maynard Speece

by Marigold Speece

James D. Thueson, Publisher • Minneapolis

WorldRadioHistory

Story sketches by Barbara Alwin
Mound, Minnesota

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New voice in agriculture

Most familiar voice in Minnesota agriculture

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"This is Maynard Speece"

These favorite stories of Maynard Speece were dictated to me several years ago and are written as he told them many times in speeches and on WCCO Radio. Although Maynard's image to his many listeners is that of a great story teller with a contagious, hearty laugh, he is an educator. He has been recognized as an outstanding authority and expert in the field of agriculture. As a communicator, he took great pride in being able to go to reliable sources at the University, the Department of Agriculture and industry to keep informed about trends, legislation, research, issues and factors affecting the industry of farming. He was able to convey this information to farm people and agri-business quickly and effectively.

Maynard retired as Farm Service Director of WCCO Radio in February, 1978, after a twenty-five year career. He is still an early riser, but during those years he was up every morning at 4:30 and on the radio at 6:00 with a song, a story, his familiar chuckle and, perhaps, a moment of reflection in philosophy, but above all, with the latest news in agriculture. Maynard's informal and natural approach to farm broadcasting on the "Top of the Morning" show and other broadcast programs developed an affectionate and incredibly loyal following among both urban and rural listeners. On many occasions Maynard has said, "People are owly when they get up in the morning. They don't want to be educated or informed. I have found it is easier to get the message across by trying to entertain them with a new story, or maybe an old one with a new twist, then drop in the nuggets of solid information."

He believes his value as a farm broadcaster has been his knowledge of farm people, his understanding of technical agriculture and knowing

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what applies to the farm industry in 'CCO Land. During the years at WCCO Radio, Maynard had many speaking engagements at Farm Meetings, graduation ceremonies and agri-business meetings in the mid-west and other parts of the country. He is known as a fun loving person with many tales of his life on the farm as he was growing up. Through letters and comments from listeners, we have been told many times that people love to re-tell Speece jokes maybe during coffee breaks, riding to work or at a bridge club.

In commendations and trophy awards, Maynard has been recognized as a Farm Broadcaster, agricultural spokesman and master story teller, "imparting words of wisdom with a golden tongue". Maynard's ability to see fun and joy in all situations stems from his philosophy, "Some people endure life; I enjoy it!"

In trying to convey the home spun, folksy, happy spirit that Maynard radiates, I thought that telling about "Back Home on the Farm" and a biographical sketch of his job experiences would be helpful in setting a stage or background for the book. In telling his favorite stories, Maynard has shared the many fun incidents or situations that happened while growing up on the farm or in his association with people — which through the years has endeared him to his audiences and made him their good friend.

We thank WCCO Radio, the American Dairy Association and Waino John Kortesmaki for their help and for the photographs they have given us over the years. We especially thank Chuck Hartley, Cliff Markuson, Leonard Harkness and Ray Wolf for helping to identify people in the photographs; Henri Drew for his sketches in Maynard's retirement party program; Gordon W. Pappas for the music manuscript of the Speece family songs; Barbara Alwin, Jo Ann Aamodt, Roger Erickson, Gretchen Rich, Debbie Speece, Carolyn Krogh, Mary Walz and everyone else who has encouraged us to compile this book.

I hope as you read our book that you can hear the voice of Maynard speaking at a meeting in your community, a banquet or on the radio, telling you one of his favorite stories.

Maynard's wife,

Marigold

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"Back Home on the Farm"

Maynard was born on a farm near Meadowlands, a small farming community about forty miles northwest of Duluth. As the third child in a family of eight, he learned early the fun of belonging to a large family. Everyone helped with the farming and chores. They raised garden vegetables, grains and food for the cattle, cleared land and cut timber for lumber and firewood. They owned a registered coach stallion and raised horses for sale and for work on the farm until tractors began replacing them. Their Dad drove produce to Farmers Markets in Hibbing, Virginia and Duluth. The children would pick, wash, tie and sort vegetables and flowers and pick feathers when Dad was taking chickens. The older children would go along to help arrange their products and sell at the market booth, whenever Mom didn't go. Their family found pleasure in being together, learning together, growing together and sharing accomplishments as well as hardships. They were known in their community for their ready wit and great gift for recounting stories.

They were a fun loving family. Each of them has pleasant memories of incentives for completing farm chores, such as a game of croquet or a freezer of ice cream, singing songs they learned from their Dad and enjoying Speece foolishness.

One time when talking about growing up on the farm Maynard said, "Even though emancipation came for women and the right to vote, Pop was still ruler of the house. He made all the decisions, especially those concerned with the running of the farm and financial matters. Mom ran the house and made all of the decisions about household

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Maynard

Maynard and Garnet

In the flax:

Pop Aunt Claudie Aunt Lestie

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Pop and Garnet at market in Duluth

matters. She was usually the one to discipline the children. All she needed to do was bring Pop on the scene after one of our escapades and we'd straighten up mighty quick."

Mom and Pop left behind a wealth of wisdom, love, songs, stories and laughter that have been handed down to their children and grandchildren. The Speeces have always been great story tellers. Many evenings Pop used to sit in front of the fire with his family and relate tales about the good old days. Maynard's sister, Garnet, recalls how at one time their father would read to them in the evening from books by Zane Gray and others, not particularly stories for children, but books their Dad liked. He made the stories so interesting with hair

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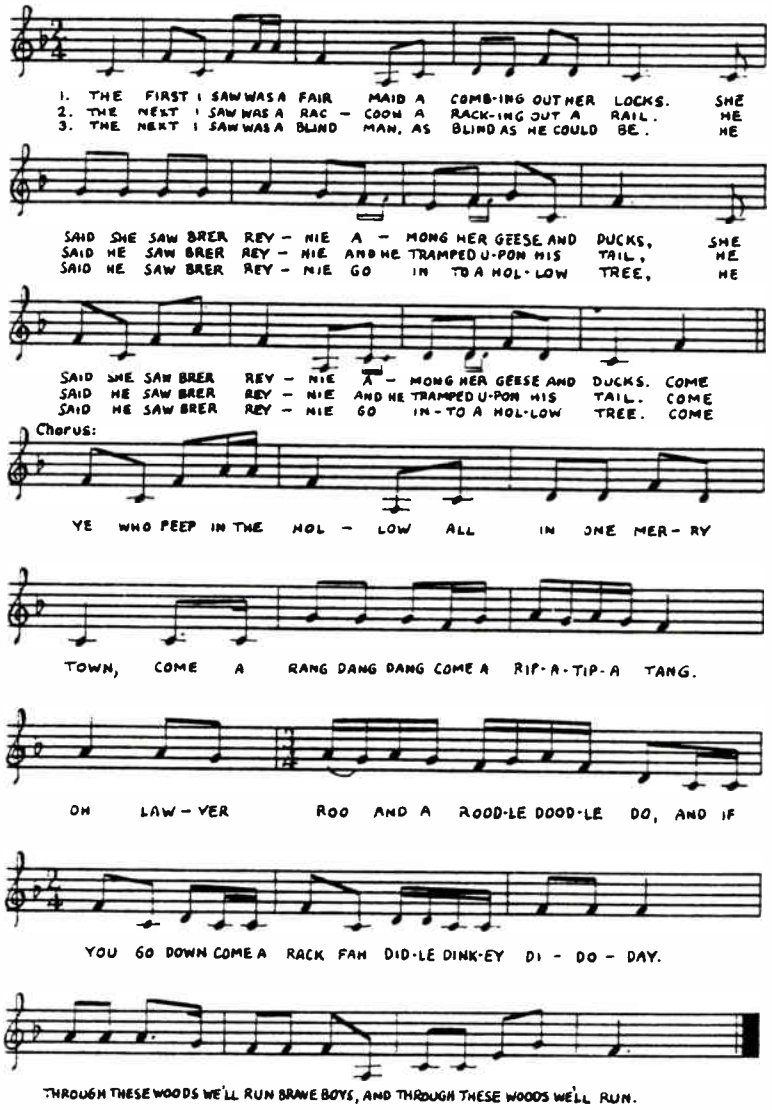
raising tales, the children would be around his rocking chair in the evening waiting for him to start their story time. They have inherited the knack and skill for being a good story teller. At family reunions each comes up with a new story or an old one to tell again. Their love of singing together is always evident at the family gatherings and usually someone in the group will start out with one of the family favorites such as "Brer Reynie", which has been passed down from generation to generation.

Brer Reynie



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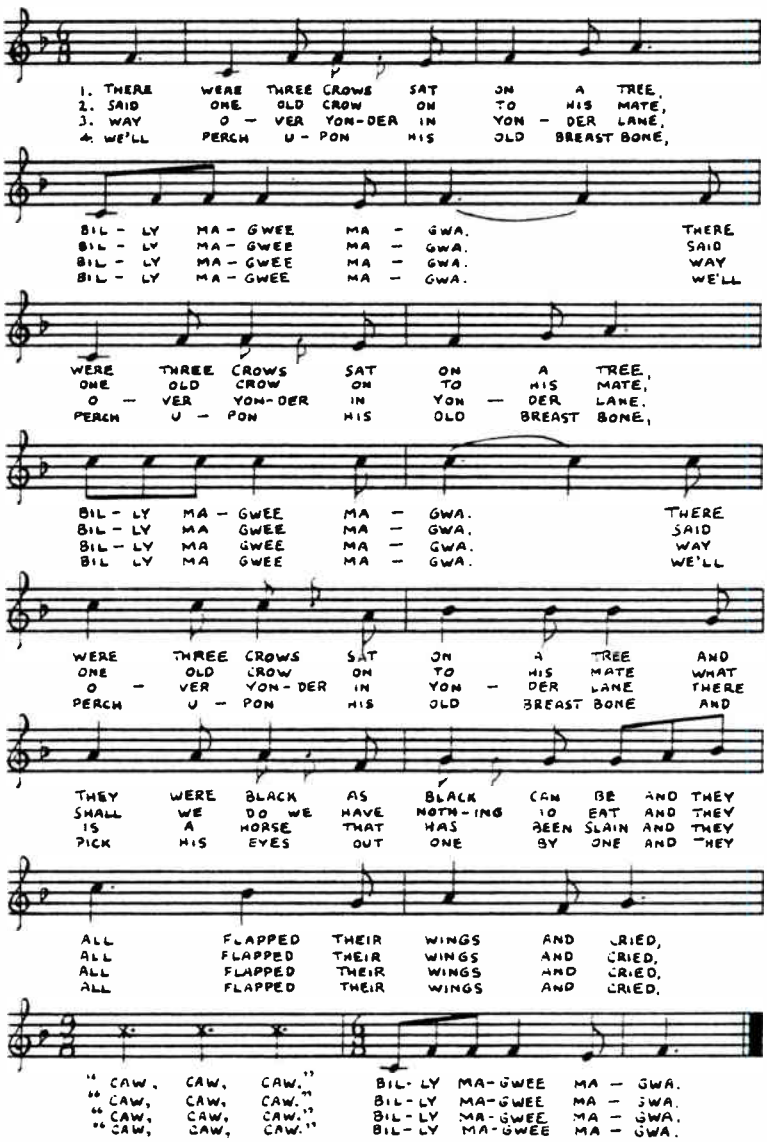
Billy Magee was a popular folksong at the turn of the century. This is the Speece family version:

Billy Magwee Magwa



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Mom and Pop in later years

Maynard

Pop

Harold

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In speeches Maynard has often said, "There were seven in our family, five boys and two girls. I was one of the boys." All seven of them and members of their families enjoyed being together again at a family reunion in July 1979 at Happy Oaks in the Black Hills, the summer home of Harry and Wynn Speece. Maynard has told you often about those seven children, who have grown up and traveled to different parts of the country to follow a variety of careers. They are:

Maynard Garnet Ralph Harold Mary Harry Herbert

Maynard
Edina, Minnesota
Retired Farm Service Director, WCCO Radio

Garnet (Mrs. Mervin Nelson)
Mankato, Minnesota
Homemaker and former teacher

Ralph
Mountain View, California
Research Physicist

Harold
Woodland, California
Maintenance Administrator for Hiedrick Farms

Mary (Mrs. Clifford Erickson)
Silver Bay, Minnesota
Homemaker and former postal employee

Harry
Yankton, South Dakota
Business Manager, Yankton Press and *Dakotan*

Herbert
Raleigh, North Carolina
Head of Math Department, North Carolina State

Speece Family Reunion — Black Hills, July, 1979

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Anoka County Agent

After graduation from Meadowlands High School, Maynard spent several years working as a truck driver, school bus driver, steel worker and farm hand before enrolling at the University of Minnesota in the College of Agriculture. While a student and for a year following his graduation, he worked as a seed analyst in the state seed testing laboratory. In 1944, he became agricultural agent for Anoka County, Minnesota, where he started their present soil conservation district developing three different reforestation projects. He promoted strong progressive agricultural development and stimulated involvement of young people in 4-H and FFA.

H. R. Searles,
Dairy Specialist

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Maynard expressed his philosophy of rural living and agricultural education in this poem reprinted here from the April, 1945, issue of *The Visitor*, a publication of the University's Division of Agricultural Education.

OUR JOB

To teach a better, fuller life
For all us rural folks
To help our sense of humor
With a few well chosen jokes.

To add a bit of living
Which was not there before
To create techniques of farming
From scientific lore.

To conserve our greatest resource
A fertile rich black loam
To improve upon surroundings
For the family in the home.

To recognize the dignity
Of every human life
To adopt the term "Homemaker"
And discard the name "Housewife".

To turn to education
For the knowledge we must gain
To solve our future problems
Not with brawn, but brain.

To understand our neighbors
And live as best we can
To develop christian people
Who love their fellow man.

To leave a greater heritage
As posterity's award
And be guided by the teachings
Of our Savior Christ the Lord.

Maynard A. Speece*

* Maynard A. Speece, a former student in Agricultural Education, is County Agent in Anoka County.

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KUOM
University of Minnesota

Maynard joined the staff of the University of Minnesota in 1945 assuming responsibility for agricultural radio for the University station KUOM and as an instructor for classes in agriculture journalism.

Paul Miller, Director, Agricultural Extension Service

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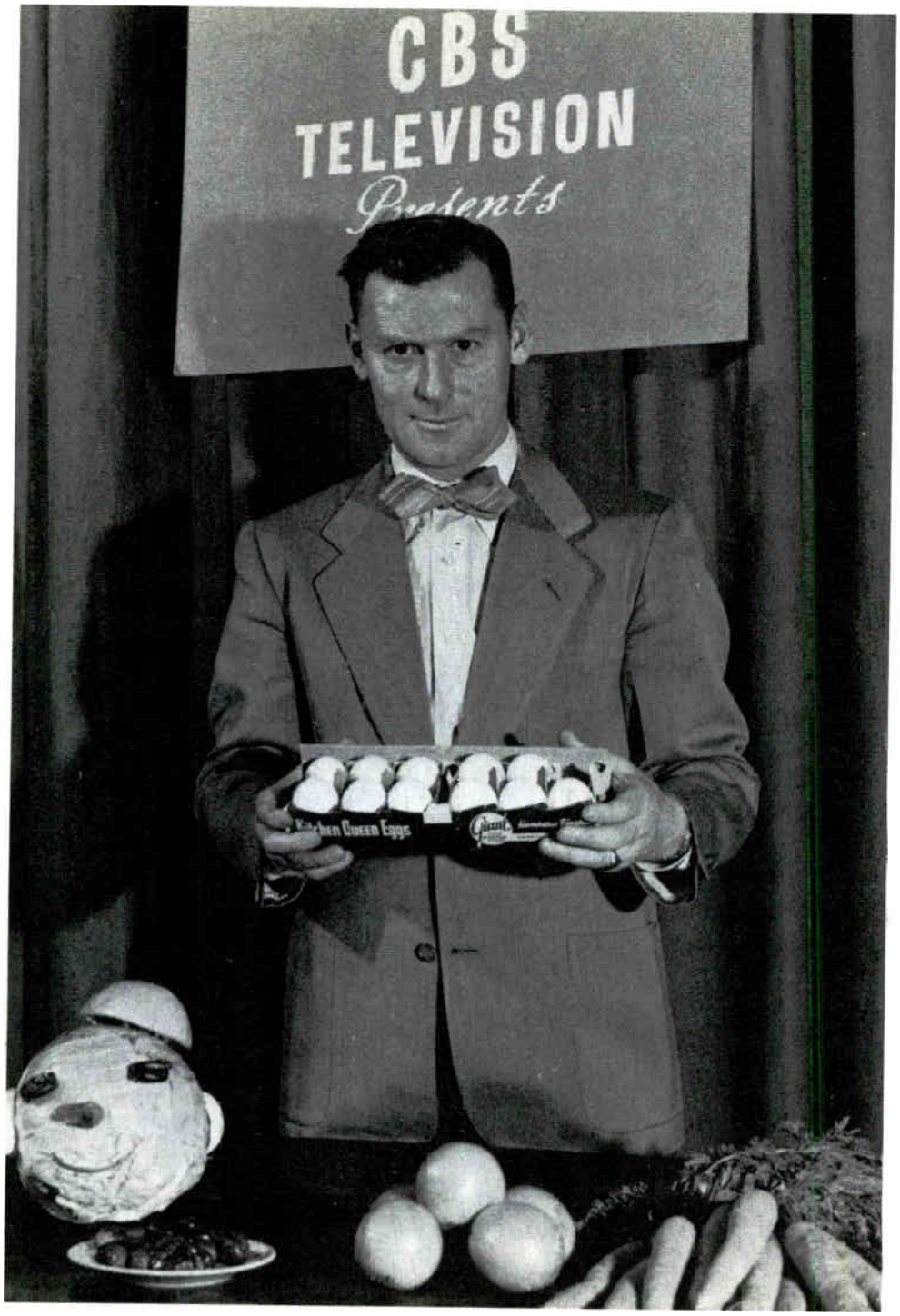
Maynard



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Consumer Education U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

In 1948, Maynard became director of a television research project for the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. As a part of this research project he presented regular farm television programs in color on WNBK, the NBC station in Washington, which included consumer programs on how to buy meat, milk, eggs, fruit and vegetables. He taught agricultural journalism in the graduate school of the United States Department of Agriculture and carried on extensive research work in the field of radio and television. During this time he conducted radio and television clinics in colleges and universities in all parts of the United States. He also wrote, produced and acted in thirty-three films on farm information, wrote three books about farm television and wrote many articles on farm radio.

U.S.D.A., Washington, D.C., 1948

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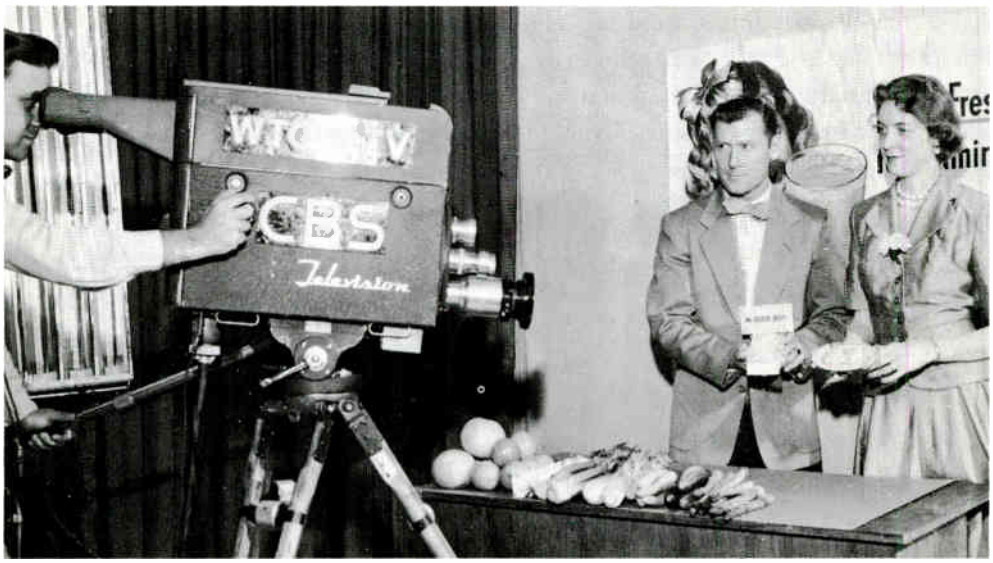

Secretary Brannon welcomes Maynard to Washington. *CBS Television*

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The "Top of the Morning" Show

In 1952, Maynard applied to WCCO Radio for the position of Farm Service Director. The position is very important to the station, so his interview was quite lengthy. Bob Sutton, the station's program director, wanted to be certain he chose someone who could attract rural people and bring in city folks too. True, Maynard was an educated man, had a strong, appealing personality, and was an experienced broadcaster; but had Washington corrupted him? Had he lost touch with country life? About noon, Maynard suggested they break for "dinner". When Sutton heard that, he knew he had the right man.

Maynard joined the WCCO Radio staff as Farm Service Director in August. From then until his retirement in 1978, he was on the air with programs in the early morning and again at noon. While his programs and features were farm-oriented, he achieved his greatest fame as a "personality" in the morning hours. Playing to audiences numbering 300,000 and more, Maynard traded jokes and stories with other WCCO Radio announcers. In recent years, Roger Erickson, host of the morning hours, was Maynard's partner and together they motivated interest and curiosity of listeners by their development of subjects such as two-story outhouses, how toilet paper should come off the roll, matching up lonely people for matrimony and other ridiculously profound topics.

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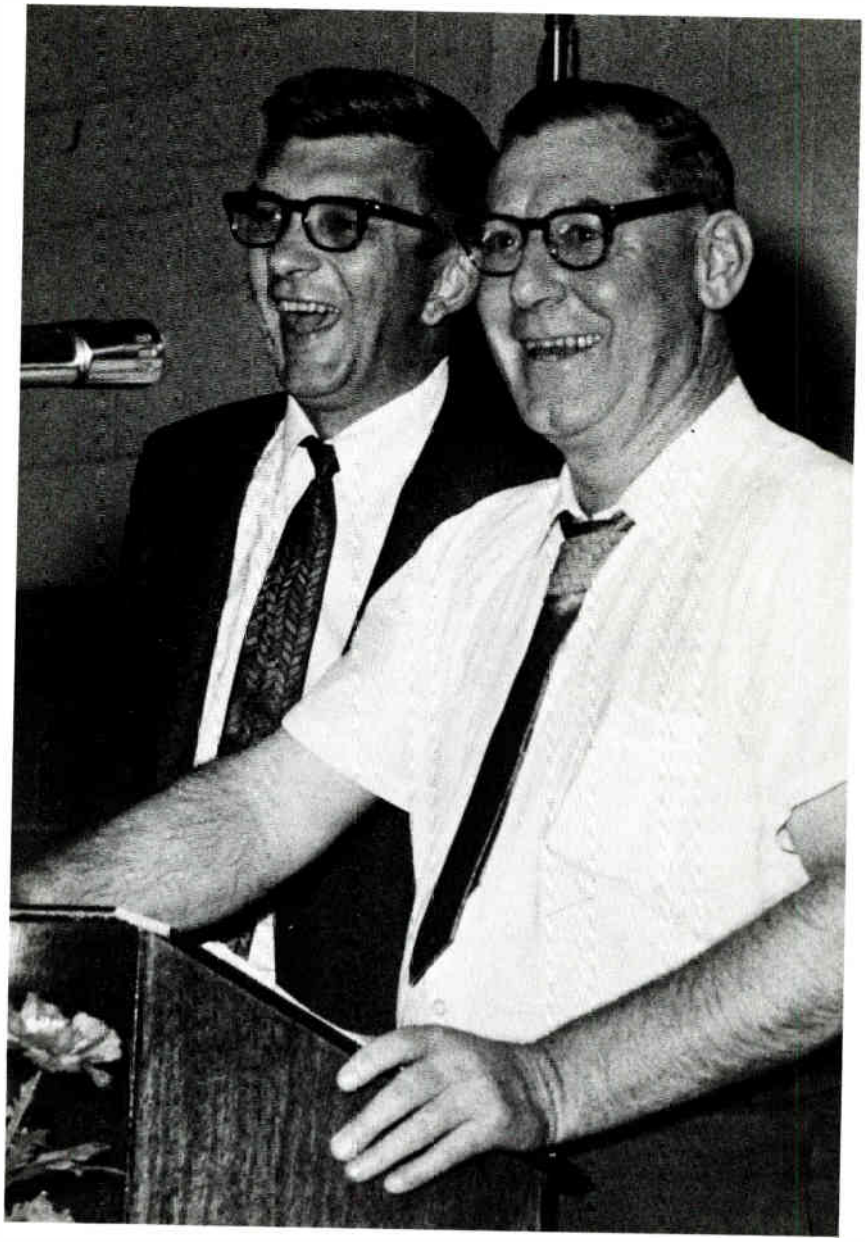

Roger and Maynard would sing the Good Morning song at 6:05 each morning in their own inimitable way helping their many midwestern listeners get out of bed. Their rendition of the song usually began a chuckle, which would burst into laughter. Some days their harmony and musical talent was questionable, but what a way to start your day!

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It was hard for their competition to understand how they were so successful in attracting the large audiences of city and down on the farm people who depended on their daily dose of humor as well as nuggets of much-needed agricultural information. Maynard was quoted in the Minneapolis Star, January 27, 1978, in an article by David Eden saying, "The secret to success in using humor is knowing what to use and what not to use and then crowd it as close to the line (of good taste) as you can get it. You're walking a tight rope and there are many who have tried it and have gotten into trouble."

One morning they almost got into trouble when Maynard said,

Roger, do you know why it takes the train so long
to get from Princeton to Milaca?
No, Maynard, why does it take the train so long
to get from Princeton to Milaca?
Because it stops at Long Siding and Pease.

After that morning broadcast, the General Manager called Roger and Maynard into his office. "The story about Long Siding and Pease? We go for informality, but this is ridiculous."

The next morning in their presentation of the Good Morning song they saluted Long Siding and Pease, "Like kicking a tin can along."

* * * *

One of the *Top O' the Morning* shows began like this:

MAYNARD: O.K. Rog — we're on. Did you hear about the time my Uncle Edgar had a carbuncle on his neck?

ROGER: No, Maynard, tell me about the time your Uncle Edgar had a carbuncle on his neck.

MAYNARD: The nearest doctor or dentist to my home town, Meadowlands, was in Hibbing, 35 miles away or Duluth, 40 miles distance. My Uncle Edgar had a carbuncle on his neck. It was so painful that he decided to go to Hibbing to the doctor to see if he could get some relief. He walked into the dentist's office by mistake and explained his condition. The dentist said it was caused by a bad tooth. So Uncle Edgar grabbed out his upper plate and his lower plate and said, "Doc, show me which one it is and we'll knock her out!"

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And, of course, one story reminded Maynard of another:

> *My Uncle Edgar was a great baseball fan. As a matter of fact, his first cousin, Byron Speece, pitched for the Washington Senators the year they won the pennant back in the early 20's. Uncle Edgar used to say that baseball umpires are like women. — — They make quick decisions, never reverse themselves and they never think you're safe when you're out.*

Interspersed among the stories were nuggets of agricultural wisdom or commercials and then Roger or Maynard might say, "Talking about girls!" — That being one of their favorite topics, here are a couple of those stories:

> *A beautiful blonde was walking ahead of two men on the main street of a big city. "There goes my ex-wife," said one. "Wonderful little housekeeper." "Doesn't look like it," said his friend. "Not the type." "She is though — divorced three times and kept the house each time."*

* * * *

> *Co-Ed: I'm not asking anything for myself, God, but please bring my Mother a son-in-law.*

* * * *

And, of course, there were a lot of farm jokes:

> *I was sitting in my office one day, when I was county agent in Anoka County, when the phone rang. This maiden lady told me that she and her sister wanted to start a chicken farm. I said, "Yes, what can I do to help?" She said, "We'd like to have you help us buy the chickens. We want 100 hens and 100 roosters." I said, "Mam — you don't need that many roosters." She said, "We do too — we know what it is like to be lonely."*

* * * *

Not everything funny was planned that way. One morning Maynard's tongue got in his way just when he was introducing a girl who had won a national 4-H award in domestic science. After describing her as a beautiful, healthy, young woman, exactly the kind

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of girl he would like to have met as a young man in Meadowlands, he introduced her as "the national bed-breaking champion."

During the years Maynard and Roger did the *Top O' the Morning* show together, Maynard often said, "I don't believe we can use this joke, I'll save it for my last day on the air." When the count down for the last day arrived, that idea was pre-empted by telephone calls from listeners with good wishes for Maynard and there wasn't an opportunity for the "close to the line stories." Among those who called were:

Governor Rudy Perpich
President C. Peter Magrath, University of Minnesota
United States Senator Wendell Anderson
Russell Schwandt, President of the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council
District Corp of Engineers
Woody Berg, President of the State University of South Dakota
Carmel Quinn
Former Governor Harold Levander
Ancher Nelsen, former Congressman
Earl Butz, Dean Emeritus Purdue, Former Secretary of Agriculture
Vice President Walter Mondale
Norman Borlaugh, Nobel Prize Winner

* * * *

Governor Perpich: Tell me the exact spot where you were born between Toivola and Meadowlands. We are going to put up a special sign for you some day.

C. Peter Magrath: Maynard has been the extension agent of the air.

Russ Schwandt: In all the years that we have visited with you on the air, you tell it like it is. You have done a tremendous job for agriculture, agri-business and you serve the consuming public equally well. We extend our heartfelt congratulations, Maynard and wish you the best of everything.

Earl Butz: I just can't imagine WCCO without your voice, Maynard. I want you to know how much I appreciate the tremendous assistance you were during my five years as Secretary of Agriculture. You're one of my top Farm Broadcasters who are doing an absolutely terrific job for American Agriculture in this country.

Vice President Mondale: I join with the thousands and thousands of Minnesota friends of WCCO in extending good wishes to Maynard on his retirement. I have been impressed by his work. He has made a

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marvelous contribution to our wonderful state and deserves a good retirement.

Carmel Quinn: Hi, Maynard! This is Carmel Quinn. I wish you all the luck in the world. It won't be the same without you. Here's a little poem for you—

You made me
so much wiser
you taught me
all I know about fertilizer.

Dr. Norman Borlaugh: I want to congratulate you, Maynard, on your long years of successful service and all you have contributed to improving agriculture over these many years by way of WCCO Farm Service broadcasts. Not only our own American society, but the world at large owes a great deal to you people who work in Farm Service Broadcasting bringing pertinent news to the farm sector. Congratulations for a job well done.

* * * *

The day was a grand tribute to Minnesota's Voice of Agriculture.

Bob Miller, WLW, Cincinnati, presents Maynard with a gavel after his election as president of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters. Seated are Mildred Wilson and Larry Haeg, Sr.

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National Association of Farm Broadcasters

Maynard has taken an active part in the National Association of Farm Broadcasters through the years he has been Farm Service Director at WCCO Radio. He was president of the organization in 1959 and has served in many capacities to help develop a strong

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national organization. His most recent responsibility was chairman of the Energy Committee. In this capacity, he started action in the organization to develop a concern for conservation of energy and a search for new energy resources at a time before it became in reality a problem for national concern.

In the June 27, 1959, issue of the *New Yorker*, Maynard was written up in its Talk of the Town section. "What me? — that little farm boy from Meadowlands, Minnesota, written up in the *New Yorker* magazine!"

THE TALK OF THE TOWN

Very Sound Effects

WE went over to the Hotel Statler-Hilton one morning last week to attend a get-together of NATRFD, which, spelled out, means National Association of Television and Radio Farm Directors. Ourself relentlessly urban, and, for that matter, a little aloof

from the tribulations of TV and radio, we moved in on our wired-for-sound agrarians with the nervousness of a city mouse trying to understand a country cousin. As it happened, our country cousins were both comprehensible and interesting, and the subject they were discussing. . .

At this point, dizzied by new facts and statistics, we departed from the assembly hall, and presently, in a corridor outside, we met up with Maynard Speece, the president of NATRFD. Mr. Speece, a ruddy, 4-H type, promptly gave us some lowdown on himself and the organization he heads. "I'm the farm director of WCCO, in Minneapolis," he said, "and I formerly taught agricultural journalism at the University of Minnesota. NATRFD was started as a national organization by Larry Haeg, who happens to be the general manager of WCCO. That was back in 1943. Early in the game, you know, the Federal Communications Commission established a rule that radio stations and, later on, TV stations had to do some sort of public service. There was no definite amount of time that the stations had to give, but every three years the F.C.C. would ask a station to justify its license, on the basis of the public service it had rendered. Well, in the farm belt nobody could sell morning time, so we became the stations' public service. It turned out that early in the morning the farmer could listen to the radio and still get on with his chores, and so, instead of being just a filler, the farm programs became quite valuable, what with quoting prices on farm commodities and serving as a kind of liaison between the researchers and the man in the field. Right now, I have an early-morning and a noon show, and I think that's the pattern for most farm directors. Any advertising on WCCO farm programs has to be O.K.'d by the farm director, and we won't handle beer, cigarettes, or patent medicines. We've got about four hundred representatives from three thousand radio stations in NATRFD, and about two hundred or better have showed up for this convention. We're much stronger in radio than we are in television, because a farmer hasn't time to look at television when he gets up in the morning to do his chores."

We asked Mr. Speece, wonderingly, what he and his confreres were doing in New York.

"This is our first meeting here," he said, "but most of the money invested in radio is from this area. So Mohammed has come to the mountain—only this time with a pig in front of him, a cow behind him, and a sack of wheat on his shoulder."

JUNE 27, 1959

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Maynard's Favorite Stories

My folks were poor. There were seven of us in the family, five boys and two girls and I was one of the boys. Times were so hard, my Mother used to put me and my older brother in the same diaper — just to make ends meet. We used to buy apples by the barrel and my Mother, being a frugal woman, always picked out those apples with the rotten spots to use first. One spring as we were approaching the bottom of the barrel, one of the family remarked, "We've eaten a whole barrel of rotten apples this winter."

* * * *

I was sitting in the porch swing with my girl one night when her father leaned his head out of the window of the upstairs bedroom and said, "Young man, we turn the lights out around here at ten o'clock." I said, "Well, that's O.K., sir, we have no intentions of reading."

* * * *

A boy coming home from Sunday school with his buddy asked, "Do you suppose Noah did a lot of fishing on his ark?" His friend replied, "How could he with only two worms."

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Back on the farm in Meadowlands we had an old setting hen too tough to eat, so we kept her as a pet. We had tried everything to break her up, but she insisted on setting. We'd put her in a sack and tie her on a clothesline and the minute we let her go, she would go set on a rock or door knob or anything that was handy. One day our cat had kittens and soon after that died, so we were stuck with a bunch of day old kittens. One of the boys suggested we put them under the old setting hen and she went for the idea in a big way. We'd feed the kittens milk with an eye dropper and she kept them warm and mothered them. At long last she had found her purpose for living and she was proud of it. A couple of days later my cousin came out from town and we were so proud of the old setting hen, I could hardly wait to show it to him. I didn't tell him what he was going to see. I just said, "Come with me I want to show you something." So I took him out to the chicken house and I said, "Take a look under that old hen!" He was kind of afraid and I said, "Go ahead, she won't peck you." Well, he took his hand and lifted up the feathers and his eyes got as big as saucers, but he didn't say anything. So I said, "What do you think?" and he said, "I can tell you one thing — I've done et my last egg."

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Thinking about that old setting hen reminds me of the time I was going down to the pasture to turn our pet billy goat loose. For some reason I was carrying a water pail, a cane and that old setting hen. A neighbor girl came by to see my sister, she said, but she started following me down toward the pasture. We had a long lane leading down to the pasture lined on either side by big balm of gilead trees and the branches intertwined. It was kind of quiet, shady and romantic. When we got to the beginning of the lane she stopped. I said, "What's the matter?" and she said, "Maynard, I'm afraid to go in there with you." I said,"Why?" and she said, "I'm afraid you'll kiss me." I said, "How could I do that with all this stuff?" "Well," she said, "you could put the hen under the pail, drive the cane in the ground and tie the goat to it — couldn't you?"

* * * *

A burlesque show came to our town one time and everybody was talking about it. I asked my Dad if I could go and he said, "No." And I said, "Why not?" and he said, "You might see something you shouldn't." So I went. And I did see something I shouldn't. I saw my Dad.

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When I was quite young, the neighboring farm was owned by a wealthy man, H. C. Hansen. He had come to this country as a young immigrant from Norway and made his money on the Iron Range through a procedure he developed for mining ore. One day as I was walking down the road to town, his big black car, driven by a chauffeur, pulled up beside me. Mr. Hansen was sitting in the back seat, looking very pompous in his bowler hat, a diamond stick pin and gold handled cane. He opened the car door and said, "Get in young man. I'll give you a ride to where you're going." I told him I didn't want to mess his car with my dusty overalls and bare feet. He said, "This is my car and you can get it dirty if you want to". I got in and sat uneasily on the edge of the seat. As we drove on toward town he said, "I envy you." I thought to myself, this rich man envies me? He continued, "Yes, I envy you. I envy you your opportunities to become great. I envy you the opportunity to accomplish the impossible dream — to change things in this world for the betterment of everyone living in it."

* * * *

The fancy questionnaire a household appliance company used to survey Iowa housewives brought equally fancy replies. To the question: "What make of garbage disposal unit do you use?" One woman wrote: "Four hogs."

* * * *

A woman may read her husband like a book and still wonder about earlier editions.

* * * *

Wife (at 4 A.M.) — A fine time to come in! I want an explanation and I want the truth.
Hubby — Make up your mind, dear — you can't have both.

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A minister had been badly beaten on the golf course by one of his parishoners. "Cheer up," the opponent said. "Remember, you win at the finish. You'll be burying me someday, I expect." "Even then," said the preacher, "it will be your hole."

* * * *

The perfect graduation gift for an 18 year old girl used to be a compact. It still is — if it has four wheels.

* * * *

Being admitted to a prison, a notorious crook was asked to take the contents out of his pockets. Each article was examined, recorded and placed on the desk. The last article was a badly tarnished silver dollar. The prisoner pointed to the dollar and asked the warden if he could keep the silver dollar with him. The warden said, "Why?" "Just a little sentiment," the prisoner explained, "You know, it's the first dollar I ever stole."

* * * *

A practical nurse is one who marries a wealthy patient and retires.

* * * *

A young man went to the psychiatrist and said, "It's this girl I've been dating. I suspected she was wild, but I never dreamed she was a sex maniac. Every night for weeks I have been trying to break it off — but I don't seem to have the will power. What should I do? Each night when I take her out for a ride we park in a secluded place. Then she asks me to put my arm around her. And then, doctor, she reaches over and takes my hand." The young man paused and there was silence. The psychiatrist finally said in an attempt to be helpful, "And then — ?" "And then?" said the young man. "Is there more?"

WorldRadioHistory

Usually the reason a young man leaves the farm to work in the city is to make enough money to retire and live on a farm.

* * * *

A maid who was giving satisfactory service suddenly gave notice one day. "Why do you wish to leave?" the mistress asked. "Is anything wrong?" "I just can't stand the suspense in this house, Madam," the maid said. "What do you mean?" the mistress said. "It's that sign over my bed that says: 'Watch ye. For ye know not when the master cometh.' "

* * * *

A man from the city was visiting a farm and noticed a large flock of geese. He asked the farmer, "How do you tell the males from the females?" "That's easy," replied the farmer. "we just throw them into the yard and let them figure it out for themselves."

* * * *

One summer vacation when I was in high school, I worked for an old bachelor on a dairy farm. Besides most of the farm work and cooking my own meals, I milked 24 cows a day. Old man Hughes always found it convenient to be gone at milking time. My pay was one dollar a week and the use of an old Model A car to go to the dance on Saturday night. He would always make me wait the longest time for that dollar on Saturday night cross examining me — "Did you feed the horses?" "Did you clean the barn?" He had promised me a new suit for school, but it was late October before he took me to Duluth to buy the suit. We went to a second hand store on Michigan Street and the suit he bought me was an old style with bell bottom trousers. He was such a stingy old man. On our way home it began to snow and by the time we got to old man Hughes' farm his road was a huge snow drift. At first

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he asked me to go and get the horses, but when he realized they were on the back forty he said, "Hitch up the bull." I was trying to lead the bull hitched to the car and the bull knew nothing about "Gee and Haw". Finally he said, "Maynard, you get in and steer the car and I'll lead the bull." Mr. Hughes wasn't having any luck in trying to lead the bull so he yelled, "blow the horn". At that, the bull took off with snow flying in all directions and before I knew it we were scraping around the windmill. The bull broke the hitch and went on through the barn door. There I was, buried in the snow, when old man Hughes came running up and yelled, "Why didn't you put on the brakes!"

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This itinerant minister found his way into a small western town. He was tired, hungry and thirsty. Since there were not many choices of places to eat, he went into a saloon and said to the bartender, "Would you make me a double milk shake while I stable my horse and wash up." While he was gone, a thirsty prospector dropped into the saloon and ordered a double shot of brandy in a glass of milk. He said, "I'll stable my burro and wash up." The bartender fixed the double brandy and milk and sat it on the bar. In the meantime the minister returned, saw the double brandy and milk and assumed it was for him. He gulped about half of the glass full and suddenly realized he hadn't said grace. So he raised his eyes toward heaven and said, "My God! What a cow!"

* * * *

I have a doctor friend who has practiced for many years in a fairly good sized southern Minnesota town. He retired a few months ago and decided to do some traveling. He stopped in the Twin Cities and called on a psychiatrist that he had sent many patients to through the years. The psychiatrist said, "I am happy to meet you, Dr. Olson, and I want to thank you for all of the business you have sent me through the years." Dr. Olson said, "Tell me about the psychiatric business." The psychiatrist said, "This is a scientific situation. We ask questions of the patient and we make a diagnosis depending upon their reply and prescribe treatment." Dr. Olson said, "Questions like what?" The psychiatrist said, "I'll give you a few examples. For example we ask them, what does a woman have two of and a cow has four? Now obviously the answer is legs. Another is, What does a dog do on a lawn that people will walk around. He said, 'Obviously the answer is — digs a hole'. Another question is what sticks out of a man's pajamas that you can hang your hat on? The answer obviously is his neck. You'd be surprised at the crazy answers we get."

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A Jewish gentleman by the name of Sam Cohen resembled Enzio Pinza. One day he came into the railway station in New York City, grabbed his bag and was looking for a taxi. A cabbie opened the door to his taxi and said, "Enzio Pinza?" He said, "No, Sam Cohen from Connecticut." When he arrived at his hotel, the doorman opened the door and said, "Enzio Pinza?" He said, "No, Sam Cohen from Connecticut." He walked up to the registration desk at the Hotel and the clerk said, "Enzio Pinza?" And he said, "No, Sam Cohen, Connecticut." So he registered in and the clerk rang for the bell hop. The bell hop picked up his bags and said, "Enzio Pinza?" He said, "No, Sam Cohen, Connecticut." When they arrived at his room the bell hop opened the door and there was a beautiful blond in a flimsy negligee. She said, "Enzio Pinza?" He said, " — Sam — — Sam Enchanted Evening."

* * * *

I have a banker friend who was telling me the other day about a voluptuous blond who stepped up to the cashier's window at his bank and wanted to cash a check. The cashier looked over the check and said, "Mr. Got Rocks called and told us to honor his check, but you'll have to make it for some specific amount and not just — OODLES."

* * * *

I was driving down the street one night in one of the suburbs when all of a sudden a young boy ran right in front of my car. I slammed on the brakes and barely missed him. I rolled down the window and said, "Young man, you're lucky, I almost hit you. Why don't you watch where you are going?" He said, "My Mother and Father are fighting and I was so frightened when I ran out of the house I didn't think to look before I crossed the street." I said, "Who is your father?" And he said, "That's what they're fighting about."

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A farmer visiting the mental institution sat next to an inmate lounging in the shade of a tree. The inmate said, "What do you do for a living?" The farmer replied, "I'm a farmer." The inmate said, "I used to be a farmer, too. Then I came here and I've got news for you. It sure beats farming."

* * * *

The patriotic, but not too bright young lady responded to an appeal for blood donors. At the blood bank, the nurse asked her if she knew what type she was. "Oh, yes," she replied sweetly, "I'm the sultry type."

* * * *

A married couple, returning from Europe, became interested in an attractive Finnish girl on the ship. They learned that she was coming to America to look for work. They decided to offer her employment and asked, "Can you cook?" "No," said the girl, "I can't cook. My Mother always did the cooking." "Well," they said, "can you do housework?" "No," she said, "my oldest sister always did the housework." "Can you take care of children?" "No, I couldn't do that. My youngest sister always took care of the children." "What can you do?" said the exasperated couple. The girl sparkled and said, "I can milk reindeer!"

* * * *

My folks were pioneers at a time in our history when existence itself overruled all other considerations, which reminds me of the story of the young couple, who moved out west as newlyweds. Indian pilferage was rampant. The newlywed husband said to his wife, "I've got to go out in the fields and work. If you need me, ring this bell." So he went out and started ploughing. And pretty soon he heard the bell ringing. So he went back to the house running all of the way. "What's the matter?" he asked his wife. She said, "I was lonesome for you." And he said, "Look — I've got to get that

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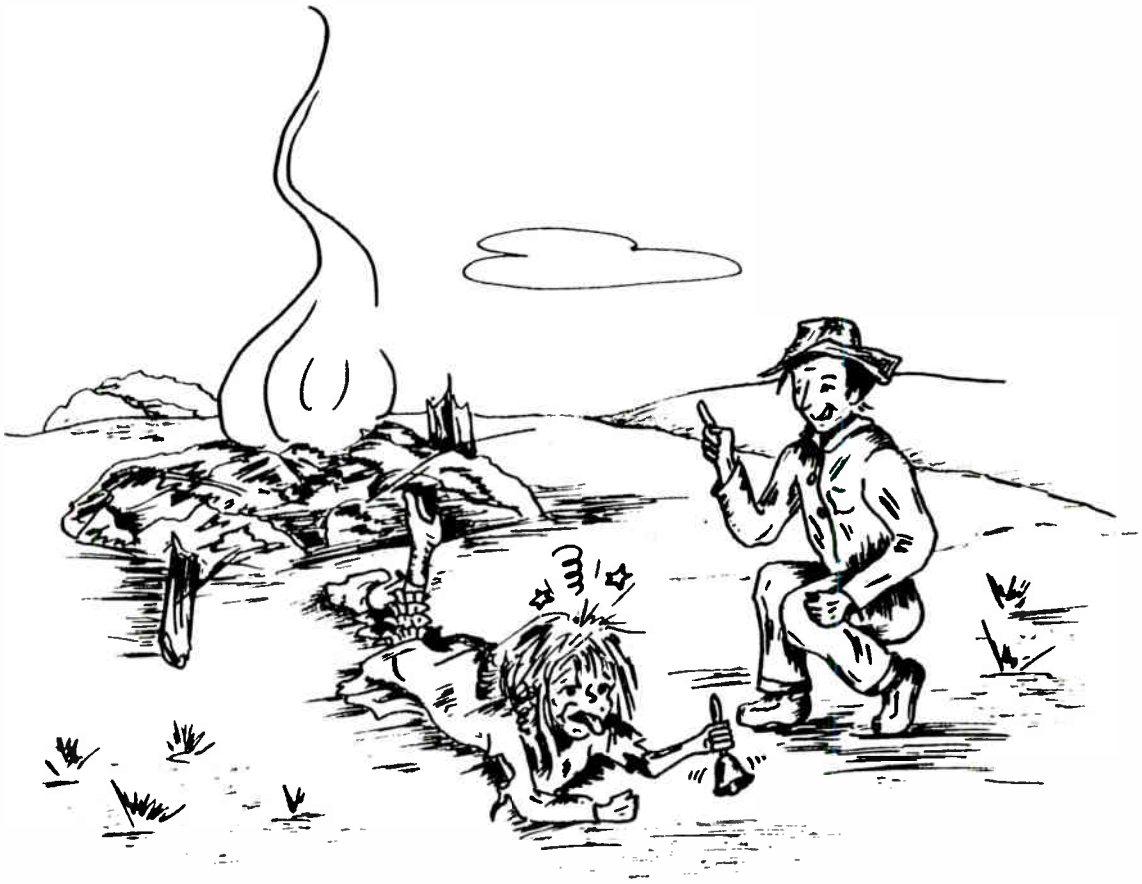

ploughing done and I don't want you to ring this bell except in the case of an emergency." So he went back to work. Later he heard the bell ring again. He ran back to the house and he said, "What's the matter?" She said, "Well nothing, but I was lonesome for you." He said, "Now look, how many times do I have to tell you that bell is only for an emergency." He went back to work again. About sundown he heard a faint tinkle on the bell and he said to himself, "Should I go or shouldn't I?" Finally he decided he should go. He went running back to the house and found the Indians had been there. The house was burned to the ground, the cattle were all gone and his wife lay wounded by the bell. He said, "Well — that's more like it."

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A farmer had arranged to have his old mother cared for in a nursing home, where he had been visiting her each week. Every time he went to see her he brought her a special lunch of delicacies from the farm, including a bottle of fresh milk in which he slipped a little brandy — on the advice of the family doctor. The aged lady was always delighted with the lunches, and one day as she sipped the milk she said gravely, "John, don't ever sell that cow."

* * * *

A lawyer was reading the boss's will to his secretary. He said, "Your boss was convinced that you are a loyal and dependable employee and he made you the beneficiary of his will." "Oh no, sir," said the secretary, "I know he had one, but I'm not the one."

* * * *

Laugh a little — Be thrifty in money matters, but never save your laughter.

* * * *

Gambling is a good way of getting nothing for something.

* * * *

I have a friend, who is a gynecologist, and has a very jealous wife. He told me the other day that he had a very bad day. At the end of this difficult day, his last patient was a friend of the family. He said, "Myrtle, I've had a rough day, do you mind if we have a cup of coffee before I examine you?" She said, "No, I'm in no hurry — take a break." While they were having their coffee, the doctor noticed the silhouette of his jealous wife through the frosted glass door of the office. In near panic, he said, "Here comes my jealous wife. Hurry up — take off your clothes and get up on that table!"

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A farmer was on his first visit to the city and was fascinated by the asphalt streets. Scraping his feet on the hard surface, he remarked, "I can't blame them for building a town here. The ground's too hard to plow anyhow."

* * * *

The master of ceremonies at a high school class reunion went up to a girl, who was wearing a strapless evening dress. He said, "I should like to introduce my friend, Mr. Volken. He is a structural engineer and has a question he would like to ask you."

* * * *

The father said to his daughter, "Who broke the chair in the parlor last night?" and she replied, "I don't know. It just collapsed all of a sudden, but neither of us was hurt."

* * * *

A jealous husband was sure his wife had a boyfriend, so he hired a detective to shadow her and take movies of what he saw. A short time later the detective met the jealous husband. He said, "Here is the film with all of the evidence and with your best friend, too!" He ran the film and the husband saw the pictures of his wife and his best friend as they ate luncheon. They took a swim, bowled, danced and had a real good time. After a while the husband said, "I can't believe it, I just can't believe it." The detective said, "The evidence is all here." "No," said the husband, "that's not what I mean. I just can't believe that my wife would be that much fun."

* * * *

She: "I don't like you. You know too many dirty songs." He: "I don't sing them." She: "No, but you whistle them."

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A farmer was walking along a country road and was offered a ride by a salesman in an air-conditioned car. It was the farmer's first encounter with air-conditioning. The salesman asked the farmer where he was going. The farmer replied, "Down the road a couple of miles to work in my tobacco field." They had traveled a short ways when the farmer asked the salesman to stop and let him out of the car. "But why?" asked the puzzled salesman. "I thought you were going to work in your tobacco field." "I was," the farmer said. "But it's turned so much cooler, I think I'll go back home and butcher my hog."

* * * *

A hat was passed around in a small town church to take up the collection. The preacher was giving his first sermon in this particular church. After it had been passed to those attending the service, it was handed to the preacher. There wasn't even a penny in the hat. He turned the hat over the pulpit and shook it to show that it was empty. He then raised his eyes to the ceiling and said, "I thank God that I got back my hat."

* * * *

Some people never get interested in anything until it is none of their business.

* * * *

When a man no longer complains about his bride's cooking, it means that she has learned better — or he has.

* * * *

A frustrated wife is one who finds a letter she had given her husband to mail six months ago in the coat that has been at home ever since, waiting for a button to be sewed on.

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Two factory workers were having a coffee break. Ann said, "What's the matter with you lately, Irene? You've been acting so strange." Irene replied, "It's the efficiency expert. He's had his eye on me all day. I don't know whether to act busy or act interested."

* * * *

"How did Johnnie lose all his money? Was it in preferred stock?" "No, preferred blondes."

* * * *

A chicken farmer noticed that one of his hens wasn't up to par and was afraid there might be some disease in the chicken yard. He decided to have the chicken diagnosed, wrung the neck and sent it to the county agent's office. He received a report some days later which said, "Cause of death was a broken neck."

* * * *

A father was upset because his wife gave permission to their 8th grade daughter to have a date for a school party. He went around making noises like an irate father is apt to do. The boy arrived and was handsome and about six feet tall. The father fumed all evening uttering warnings to his wife about what he'd do "if anything happens." On the dot of 9:30 P.M., when the young Cinderella had been told to be home — there was a telephone call. Both Mother and Dad hurried to answer it. Dad won. "Daddy," the daughter blurted, "the positively worst thing has happened!" "What did he do?" the father shouted. "You'll have to come and get me," the daughter said. "His Mother came and got him at 9 o'clock."

* * * *

There's one thing to be said for middle age spread — it brings people closer together.

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"Now, Silas," said the teacher from the city in her first country school, "if there were eleven sheep in a field and six jumped the fence, how many would be left?" "None", said Silas. "Oh, but there would be," said the teacher. "Well, ma'am," said Silas, "you may know 'rithmetic, but you don't know sheep."

* * * *

Two small boys were leaving the theater after seeing a romantic movie. The first boy said, "Wasn't it terrible?" The second boy said, "It wasn't too bad. Each time they were kissing, I just closed my eyes and made believe he was choking her."

* * * *

When Joe and Mike registered, they had to sign their names and nationality. Joe signed, "Irish — and proud of it." Mike wrote, "Scotch — and fond of it!"

* * * *

It isn't half as far from virtue to vice as vice versa.

* * * *

The hostess said to her maid, "Now Maggie, when you wait on the guests tonight at dinner, try not to spill anything." "No, ma'am. I won't say a word."

* * * *

My neighbor was in a bar and told a friend sitting next to him, "I saw a beautiful bird last night — a rosy breasted mattress thrasher."

* * * *

Before marriage a guy yearns for a girl. After marriage the "Y" is silent.

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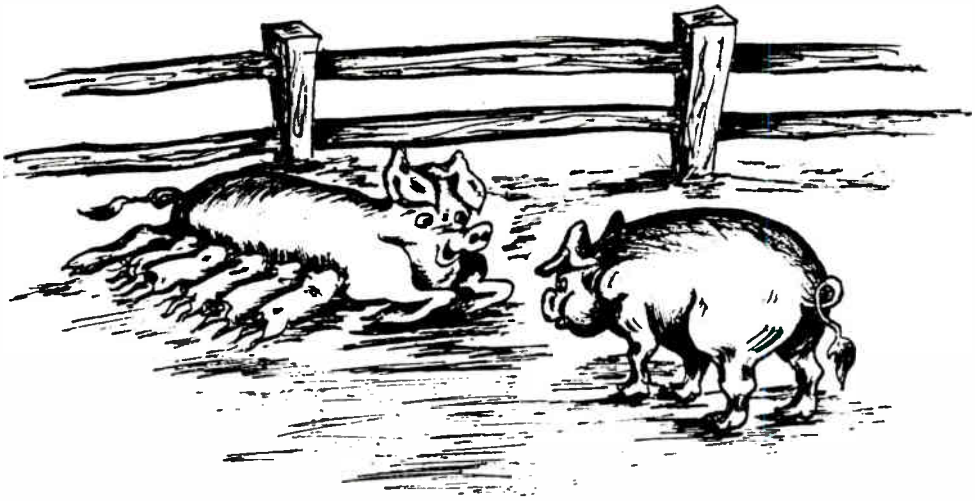

I think there are some advantages to being born and raised on a farm. You reach a point where you can understand the animals. One day I was down by the pig pen. One old sow said to the other, "Have you heard from your boar friend lately?" And the other old sow said, "Yes, I had a litter from him yesterday."

* * * *

Two elderly ladies arrived at a baseball game just as the batter hit a home run. They sat watching the game in silence. Twenty minutes later the same batter came up to bat and hit another home run. One of the ladies said to the other, "Let's go home. This is where we came in."

* * * *

Electricity had been recently brought to a country district and the meter reader was making his first call on the users. At one house very little current had been used, and thinking something might be wrong, he asked the housewife, "Don't you use the electric light?" "Oh yes, every night," she replied. "But for how long?" "Long enough to see to light the lamp."

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A school board member was visiting a school and was annoyed by the scholars in an adjoining room. Unable to stand the noise any longer, he went into the class room. Seeing one boy taller than the others and talking a great deal, he seized him by the collar, took him into the next room and stood him in the corner. The board member said, "Now you stand there and be quiet." A little later a small head appeared around the door and a meek voice asked, "Please sir — may we have our teacher back?"

* * * *

Farmer Silas Brown said, "I have been farming for 40 years and I can do anything that needs to be done on a farm." His small grandson, who was standing close by, said, "Grandpa, could you lay an egg?"

* * * *

A woman was consulting her attorney about suing over an accident in which she had lost a thumb. The lawyer asked, "What makes you think your thumb is worth $50,000?" The woman replied, "Because it was the one I kept my husband under."

* * * *

A proud father phoned the newspaper and reported the birth of twin girls. The person at the news desk didn't quite get the message and said, "Will you repeat that?" The father replied, "Not if I can help it."

* * * *

After having several martinis at a bar the man glowed at the bartender and said, "I like you." He reached in his pocket and took out a lobster and said, "Here, take this." "Say, thanks," said the bartender. "I'll take it home for dinner." "No, no," the man said, "he's had dinner already. Take him to a movie."

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A New Mexico sheriff seeking re-election was out politickin' around an Indian Reservation. He came upon a group of Indian women and proceeded to solicit their votes. "Now, if you women will vote for me," he said, "I'll guarantee you full benefit of the Social Security." An interested woman asked what the Social Security was. In explaining, the sheriff replied, "Well, that's a plan whereby you'll get about 80 bucks a month when you're sixty years old." "Ugh!" she muttered, "When sixty years old, one buck a month do."

* * * *

A staunch supporter went up to a political candidate after a speech and said, "I admire the straightforward way you dodged those issues."

* * * *

I was standing in line behind a young lady waiting to register into a hotel and I noticed the young lady had filled out her name and address and she was hesitating over the space marked firm. Finally she wrote — not very.

* * * *

He invited me up to his apartment to see an old chest — — his.

* * * *

A group of tourists touring the southern battlefields in a bus listened carefully to their driver guide. "Here on the left is the spot where two brave boys from Tennessee captured an entire regiment of Northerners." This went on at great length and finally a woman with a New England twang asked, "Didn't the North win a single victory?" "No, ma'am," said the guide, "and they won't as long as I'm running this bus."

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Tax Assessor: I'm the property tax assessor of this township and there is a situation that has come up, Mr. Schwartz. All of the property up on the hill has been recently purchased by a Catholic Church.

Mr. Schwartz: So.

Tax Assessor: The property over there was purchased by the synagogue, that section by the Presbyterian Church, and the remaining portion belongs to you.

Mr. Schwartz: What does that have to do with me — I sell Caramel Candy.

Tax Assessor: I know. It means you have to come up with the entire town budget of $87,000.

Mr. Schwartz: That's a lot of Caramel Candy. Why do I have to come up with all of that money?

Tax Assessor: Well, the rest of the town is owned by churches and you know churches don't pay taxes. That's the law.

Mr. Schwartz: I'll tell you one thing you can do — you can take your elbow off my altar.

* * * *

A farmer's wife sold her surplus butter to a grocer in the nearby town. The grocer said to the farm wife, "Your butter was underweight last week." "Really," said the wife. "My little boy mislaid my weight that day and so I used the pound of sugar you sold me."

* * * *

Soon after Waino John Kortesmaki became associated with the Future Farmers of America, he placed a person to person call to Sulo Ojakangas of Hibbing. The operator asked him to spell Ojakangas and asked where he could be reached. Kort told her that Sulo was at the home of William Matalamaki in Esko. The operator asked him to spell that name. Kort felt the operator wasn't too happy when he spelled Matalamaki as she was having difficulty in getting the correct spelling. Then she asked who was calling and Kort said Waino John Kortesmaki. At that a frustrated operator gave up and Kort had to start over again.

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My brother Harry said that golf is played with two balls — one about an inch and a quarter in diameter and the other about 7,000 miles in diameter. The object is to hit the little one.

* * * *

A Chinese gentleman by the name of Mr. Chan attended an auction sale of merchandise damaged by railroad transportation. He bid a modest sum on a load of teakwood carvings. When he found out he was the buyer he said to himself, "Mr. Chan, you smart man, how you going to sell teakwood carvings?" Finally he decided to go to the Black Hills of South Dakota, rent a tourist booth and sell the teakwood carvings himself. One night in taking inventory, he discovered several of his teakwood carvings missing. He said to himself, "Mr. Chan, you smart man — you play detective." He examined the soft ground near his stand and found what appeared to be the foot prints of a barefoot boy. That night he stayed in his stand to catch the thief and about midnight the moonlight through the clouds gave him a good view of the surrounding area. All of a sudden, a bear came out of the forest. He came over to his stand, gathered up several carvings and started back to the forest, at which point Mr. Chan arose in righteous wrath and said, "Where you go, boyfoot bear with teaks of Chan?"

* * * *

Too many people hit the hay when they should be pitching it.

* * * *

Little Oscar's school teacher went to visit his parents. Oscar answered the doorbell. "Are your mother and father in?" she asked. "They was in, but they is out." "Where's your grammar?" "She's upstairs taking a bath."

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The candidate for congressman promised a friend he would have some electioneering material ready for him and asked him to stop at his office and pick it up. The man was unable to find a parking place, so double parked in front of the building and ran into the office and called to the candidate's secretary: "I'm in a hurry. Where's that political dope?" "He's out to lunch, can I help you?"

* * * *

Three college students wanting to attend the Olympic Games didn't have tickets. The first student walked up to the gate with a wheel on a tray and said "Kalwalski, discus thrower, Poland" — and the attendant let him in. The second student carrying a long pole walked up to the gate and said, "javelin thrower, Schroeder, West Germany" — and the attendant let him in. The third student walked up to the gate with barb wire wrapped around him and said, "Ojakangas, Finland, fencer."

* * * *

"Some people are funny," mused the man in the bar. "I know a man who hadn't kissed his wife for ten years. Then he went and shot a fellow who did."

* * * *

A furniture salesman was demonstrating a sofa to a couple about to be married. "And", he said, "another good feature is that when unexpected visitors arrive it cannot be turned into a bed."

* * * *

We had an old tom cat at home that we called Ben until one day she had kittens, so then we called her Ben Hur. The neighbor's dog just loved to chase that cat. Everytime the neighbor came over, the dog would take after the cat and she would run up the balm of gilead tree in the front yard. One day my Dad said, "Boys, that old

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balm of gilead tree is getting rotten-dotten and one of these days a storm is going to blow it over on the roof of the house, so I'll tell you what we are going to do. I'll get the saw, hammer and wedges and we'll throw it away from the house and then we'll cut her up for firewood. When we get that done we are going to play croquet and we'll make a freezer full of homemade ice cream and you can have the rest of the day off." My Dad always gave us some incentive to work hard so we'd have more time for rest and fun. The next morning our neighbor came over with his dog and the dog naturally took out after the cat. He chased her around the house and when she came to the stump of that old balm of gilead tree she tried to get away from him and was half way up the tree before she found out we had cut it down.

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Pat, a young Irish lad, was planning to leave Ireland for America. The neighbors in the village had a party for Pat before he left for America. Mrs. Dunn went up to Pat at the party and said, "I understand you are going to America. Would you look up my son Mike? He went to America twenty years ago and I have not heard from him since." Pat said, "Sure — I'll be glad to. Where does he live?" "Oh, I believe it is near the White House", said Mrs. Dunn. With that meager knowledge he went on to America and when he got to New York he walked into a bar. After being there a short while he asked the bartender, "Where is the White House?" He replied, "Down the hall — the first door to the right." "What, so close?" said Pat, and he went down the hall. As he entered the door to the right he met a man coming out. He said to the man, "Are you Dunn?" The man said, "Yes." "Well, why don't you write to your poor old Mother in Ireland?"

* * * *

You can always tell who the supervisor is at a coffee break — he's the one who is watching the clock.

* * * *

Mrs. Johnson said to her husband, "It says in the paper that a pitcher brought $1900 at an auction." "Hummmph!" said Mr. Johnson. "He can't be much of a ballplayer."

* * * *

"How can you preach upon the subject 'Salvation is free,' and then take up a collection?" the parson was asked. "Well," he replied, "It's like this. Suppose you lived on a mountain and there was a stream of clear water nearby and you wanted it piped into your house. The water would be absolutely free, but you would still have to pay for the pipes."

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Then there was the psychiatrist who said to the tearful woman, "You must cheer up. Be happy." "How can I be happy? Twelve children I've had with that husband of mine and he doesn't love me. What have I got to be happy with?" "Well," said the doctor, "Imagine if he did love you."

* * * *

The guest finally decided to leave and apologized by saying, "I hope I haven't kept you up too late." The host replied, "Not at all. We would have been getting up soon anyway."

* * * *

A bachelor girl in her early 40's said to her office co-worker, "I've stopped sending expensive shower, wedding and baby gifts. I think I've reached the point of no return."

* * * *

Woman Lawyer: "And your age is?" Woman Witness: "About the same as yours."

* * * *

Adam, Cain and Abel were taking a walk one day and as they were going by paradise Cain said, "That's a beautiful place. Why don't we live there?" Adam said, "We used to live there, but your mother ate us out of house and home."

* * * *

Joan met Jean and in talking about going to church, Joan said, "I have heard that at your church the attendance has dropped off." Jean said, "Yes. The attendance has been so small that every time our minister says 'dearly beloved' you feel as if you had received a proposal."

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The father is talking to his college age boy dressed up to go out for the evening. The father said, "My shirt, my tie and what are you doing with my belt?" The son said, "Well you don't want your pants to fall down, do you?"

* * * *

A farm hand, who seldom got to town was watching a store clerk open a box of colorful men's pajamas. "What's them?" he asked. "Pajamas." "Pajamas?" exclaimed the farm hand. "What are they for?" "Why you wear them nights," the clerk replied. "Want to buy a pair?" "Not me," said the farm hand. "I don't go nowhere at nights except to bed."

* * * *

The old maid ran up to the cop and said, "There is a man following me and I think he is drunk." The cop looked her straight in the eye and he said, "Yes, he must be drunk to be chasing you."

* * * *

I had a Chinese friend named Ole Johnson. I asked him about his name one day and he said he was born Sam Ting. He said, "When I took my army physical they asked the man in front of me his name and it was Ole Johnson." Then they asked my name, and I said, 'Sam Ting'. And I've been Ole Johnson ever since."

* * * *

Some people look at life like an ostrich working on the theory that if you hide your head in the sand you can solve your problems. This reminds me of the two little girl ostriches who were being chased by two little boy ostriches. The girls stopped and stuck their heads in the sand. One little boy ostrich said to the other, "Where did they go?"

WorldRadioHistory

The elderly couple was seated on a park bench one evening and they overheard a young couple on the other side of a big bush talking about marriage. The little old lady whispered to her husband and said, "Why don't you whistle to let them know they are not alone?" And the husband said, "Why should I? Nobody whistled to warn me."

* * * *

The minister met the wayward girl at the door of the church and he said, "I'm so glad to see you in church this morning. I want you to know that I prayed for you all night last night." "Why didn't you call me. I would have been there in ten minutes."

* * * *

A widow died and went to heaven. She met St. Peter at the pearly gates. She asked him where she could find her husband. St. Peter asked, "What is your husband's name?" She said, "Sam Peterson is his name. I've been so lonely down on earth since he left." St. Peter replied, "We've got an awful lot of Sam Petersons up here in heaven. Could you tell me your husband's dying words?" She answered, "Yes, he told me that if I was ever unfaithful to him, he would turn over in his grave." And St. Peter said, "I know the guy — we call him Spinner Peterson."

* * * *

A husband, who was an ardent bowler, played in a league every Wednesday. One Wednesday he did not come home. Several years passed before he finally showed up and his wife was more than overjoyed to see him. "I must call our friends," she said through tears of joy. "What for?" asked her husband. "Because they'll be happy to know you are home. We'll have a party tonight." "What?" the husband said, "On bowling night?"

WorldRadioHistory

Years ago a shepherd and his two boys were minding their sheep. The father was home while the two boys were watching the sheep. It was a cold night and the father decided to check on the boys. He found his younger son cuddled up beside the sheep in the shivering cold. The father said, "How are you getting along?" The son said, "Fine, Father, but I need a new wick for my lamp." The father gave it to him. Then he went in search of his second son and found him sound asleep. He awakened him and said, "How are you doing, my son?" The son said, "Father, I'm doing fine, but I need a new wick for my lamp." The father said, "I'm sorry son, but there is no wick for the rested."

* * * *

Two fellows who had traveled with a stage show met one day and the first man said to the other, "What happened to the girl you used to saw in half in your stage act?" The second man said, "She's living in Chicago and Cleveland."

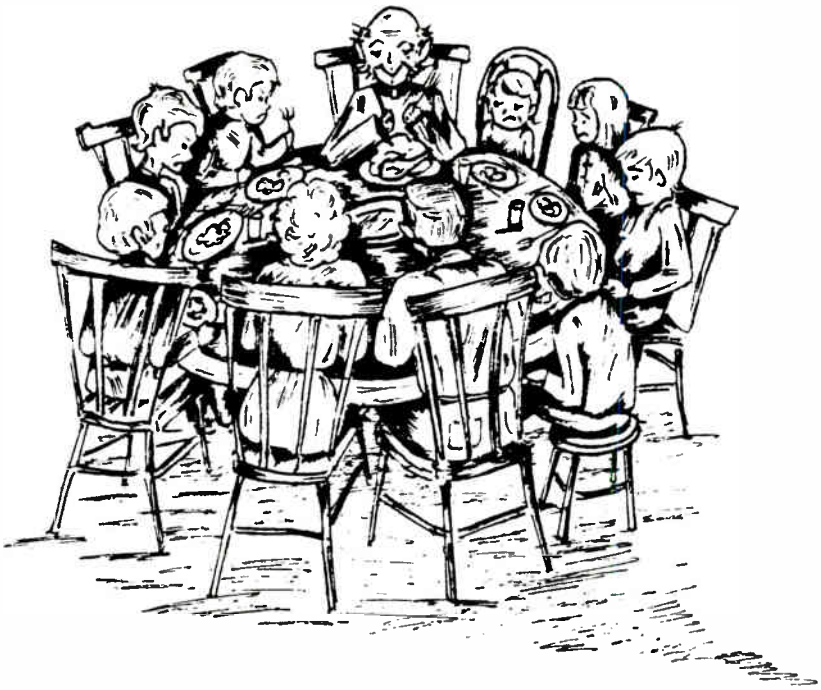
* * * *

A farmer was talking to his neighbor. He said, "My hired man broke two spade handles yesterday." The neighbor said, "Working so hard?" "No, leanin' on 'em."

* * * *

My first grade teacher was a Mrs. Five by Five. She was trying to teach us about courtesy. I met her on the street corner one day and she said, "Maynard, would you see me across?" I said, "Lord woman, I could see you a mile away." She would write our lessons on the blackboard and everytime she would turn around she would erase the blackboard. Now maybe you don't think it was tough following her along trying to figure out the day's lesson. Kind of reminded me of two little pigs fighting under a blanket.

WorldRadioHistory



When I was a boy at home on the farm, the preacher would often come to eat with the parishioners. He stayed with the Speece family quite frequently as my Mother was a good cook and we had a place to stable his horse. At supper time one evening my Mother came out and said, "Boys — the minister is here and I want you to be on your good behavior. I only had two small roosters to fry and I would like you to hold back until the minister has helped himself." It's a funny thing, but I noticed that when the minister is hungry, it doesn't take him near as long to say grace and he was hungry that night. He ate most of those two chickens. Meal time was always fun at our house, but that night the conversation virtually died out all together. The minister sensing that something was wrong tried very hard to get the conversation going again. He finally decided to leave and as he was going out the door he noticed our old white rooster. He turned to my Dad and said, "Mr. Speece, that's a mighty proud rooster you have." And my Dad said, "Yes, he should be, he's got two sons in the ministry."

WorldRadioHistory

A young salesman fell in love with a deacon's daughter. After a few dates he decided to get a character report before proposing marriage. So he hired a detective. After a week of investigating the detective reported: "Fine reputation, gentle, even tempered, excellent health and many church going friends. The only mark on her character is that recently she has been going with a salesman of doubtful reputation."

* * * *

In a Belfast home without a maid and seldom with a guest, the young son was anxious to help his mother when his father appeared one night with two dinner guests. When it was time for the dessert, the boy went to the kitchen and proudly carried in the first piece of pie, putting it in front of his Dad who immediately passed it to a guest. The boy came in with the second piece and gave it to his Dad, who gave it to the other guest. That was too much for the youngster and he said, "It's no use, Dad, the pieces are all the same size."

* * * *

Two maids were talking over their problems in relation to their jobs. One said, "The lady I work for says I should always warm the plates for our dinner guests, but that's too much trouble. I just warm hers and then she never knows the difference."

* * * *

A deep sea diver was attempting to make a record deep dive. When he was down so deep that even the fish turned back, he spotted another diver with no equipment at all. Anxious to know how the diver did such an amazing thing, the diver swam over to him and wrote on his underwater slate asking for the secret. The man took the slate and wrote hurriedly and handed back the slate. It read, "I'm drowning!"

WorldRadioHistory

Trying to run a business without advertising is like winking at a girl in the dark. You know what you are doing, but nobody else does.

* * * *

Agricultural Progression: "How are you employed?" "I'm an agricultural expert." "Your father?" "He was a farmer." "And your grandfather?" "A peasant."

* * * *

The first woman said, "What does your husband work at?" Her friend said, "He is an efficiency expert." "Efficiency expert? What are his duties?" The friend said, "It's hard to say exactly, but if women did it they'd call it nagging."

* * * *

A bachelor is like a detergent. Works fast and leaves no ring.

* * * *

A neighbor said to the Mother, "I saw your daughter go out to a dance while you were in the hospital." The Mother said, "Was she is a new gown?" "Well, some of her was."

* * * *

Modern woman is beset by many problems. Luckily, she can solve most of them by hollering for her husband.

* * * *

Phil: "When I see you I always think of Bill Jones."
Abe: "But I'm not the least bit like Bill Jones."
Phil: "Oh yes you are. You both owe me $100."

WorldRadioHistory

One of my good friends is a very successful salesman and part of the sales game is to attend conventions. This fellow has a very jealous wife and he never took her with him to conventions. She kept asking, "Why can't I go to the next convention?" He said, "Look Honey — It costs a lot of money to take you along, it's not a fun type thing, it's hard work, long hours, smoke-filled rooms, loss of sleep. It's nothing but hard work and you'd be bored to death." She said, "Don't you have any fun at all?" He said, "Yes, we do have a masquarade ball on the last night of the convention." She said, "Oh, what do you wear?" He said, "I've got a Mickey Mouse suit." She said, "Oh!" Shortly after he left for the convention. Being jealous, she grabbed a plane the next day and went to Convention City. She registered in at the convention hotel, went out and rented a costume and a mask and attended the masquerade ball. She saw the boy with the Mickey Mouse suit dancing with the girls and having a good time. She went over to him and asked for a dance and cuddling up to him she said, "How about coming up to my room?" He said, "O.K." So they went up to her room. She said, "Don't even turn on the lights. Let's just go to bed." At four in the morning she sneaked out of bed, put on her clothes and caught the first plane home. The next day when her husband arrived home, she very innocently said, "Tell me about the convention." He said, "It was nothing but long hours, hard work and smoke-filled rooms." Eagerly she said, "Tell me about the masquerade ball." He said, "Honey, I got sick and didn't go. I loaned my suit to a friend of mine — — and he told me he had a wonderful time."

* * * *

A young couple were sitting on the park bench on a beautiful moonlight night and he reached over and kissed her. She said, "How many girls have you kissed?" He didn't reply for some time. Finally she said, "I'm still waiting." And he said, "I'm still counting."

WorldRadioHistory

One night I attended a party at an elegant home near Lake Minnetonka. Our host was a hunting buff, who had a houseful of trophies. I was admiring the trophies and wandered into a room that had an enormous moose head mounted over the fireplace. I was alone in the room, except for a man who had too much to drink and he was sitting near the fireplace. I struck up a conversation with him and asked him if our host had shot the moose. He said, "No." I said, "Somebody gave it to him?" He said, "No." So I said, "How did he get it?" He replied, "That's a funny thing. He was out hunting and he hunted all day and didn't see a thing, so he came back to his cabin, put down his gun and walked out the door to look around and there was a great big moose. He was so excited he couldn't find his gun, but there was a bottle of turpentine right inside the door. He took it and threw it at that old moose. He hit him on the hind end. That moose would run a little and he'd scratch a little and our friend would throw some more turpentine at the moose. This continued for some time and when he caught up with the moose — that's all that was left — just his head."

* * * *

The minister awoke on a Sunday morning and it was a beautiful day in October. He loved to play golf and he wrestled with his conscience for some time trying to decide if he should go to church and give his sermon or call his assistant and go play golf. He finally decided to call his assistant and tell him he was sick and then he went to the golf course. The good Lord and St. Peter were watching. St. Peter said, "Do you see what I see? A minister of your gospel abandoning his parish to play golf this Sunday morning!" The Lord said, "Yes Peter and I'll punish him." The minister addressed the ball and drove it down the fairway. He made a 250 yard hole-in-one. St. Peter said, "Lord, I thought you were going to punish him." The Lord said, "Yes St. Peter, I am. He can't brag about it."

WorldRadioHistory

Did I tell you about the herring and the whale? They were good friends and they traveled everywhere together. One day the herring showed up alone and his friends asked, "Where is your friend the whale?" The herring replied, "Am I my blubber's kipper?"

* * * *

A friend of mine, who loved to gamble was in Las Vegas. At first his luck was good and he won a small fortune. Then his luck changed and several hours later he was broke. Not only that, he had to go to the bathroom. So he asked a complete stranger for a dime. The stranger gave him the dime and he rushed to the bathroom and found a door ajar. As he came out of the bathroom he put the dime in a slot machine. Lady Luck smiled at last. He hit the jack pot. With this his luck changed. He continued to gamble until he had won two million dollars. Then he quit gambling and started lecturing on the evils of gambling. He wound up each lecture by saying, "If I could find the man who gave me my start, I'd give him a million dollars." After one such lecture, a man walked up to him and said, "I'm the guy who gave you the dime to go to the bathroom." He replied, "I don't mean you, I mean the guy who left the door open."

* * * *

Co-Ed: I'm not asking anything for myself, God, but please bring my mother a son-in-law.

* * * *

A new baby had arrived in the family and three year old Billy was ignored when the relatives and neighbors came to see the new baby. After the crowd thinned out, Billy peeked in the crib and said, "Enjoy it now because it won't be long before your're old and neglected like me."

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The story is told of the young Mother who got on the train and found a salesman staring intently at her baby. Somewhat irked she said, "What are you staring at?" and he replied, "Very frankly, that is the homliest baby I have ever seen." The Mother was outraged. She called the conductor and demanded that the salesman be thrown off the train. The conductor said, "This is a public conveyance. I can't throw him off unless he has been violent. Why don't you come back to the dining car with me and have a cup of coffee and relax." Then he added, "And by the way, I'll get your monkey a nice banana."

* * * *

I saw a sign in the jewelry store window the other day, "Mink coats, diamonds and pearls for the girl who has everything and doesn't want to part with it."

WorldRadioHistory

Two guys are talking about their dreams the night before. One of them said, "I had a wonderful dream last night. I dreamed I was a Twins baseball player. It was the 9th inning. The score was tied and I was up to bat. I hit a home run and we won the game 4-3. I was a hero and the photographers and reporters swarmed around me." The other guy said, "I had a dream last night, too. It was a wonderful dream. I dreamed I was in a hotel room and on one couch was Raquel Welch and on the other was Farrah Fawcett." The first guy said, "Why didn't you call me?" and he said, "I tried to, but you were at the ball game."

* * * *

The occasion was the Vikings-Baltimore Colts game of 1971. The score was 10-3 in favor of the Vikings. Johnny Unitas was quarterback and it was the fourth down on the two-yard line of Minnesota. Unitas decided to pass with 42 seconds left on the clock. The Minnesota defense rushed Unitas and the pass hit the cross bar. The Vikings won 10-3. A radio reporter was interviewing Bud Grant, the coach, after the game and said, "The defense was great, but what about the offense?" And Bud Grant answered, "What was the score?"

* * * *

Mark Twain arrived in a small town on one of his lecture trips. He went to a barber shop before the lecture. "You are a stranger in town?" asked the barber. "Yes." he replied. "This is the first time I have been here." "You chose a good time to come," the barber said, "Mark Twain is going to read and lecture tonight. You'll go, won't you?" "Oh, I believe so." "Have you bought your ticket?" "Not yet." "Everything is sold out. You will have to stand." "How very annoying!" Mark Twain said seriously. "Never saw such luck! I always have to stand when that fellow lectures."

WorldRadioHistory

A person I know is a real connoisseur of rare items. He travels all over the world and found a very rare piece of Chinese jade on one of his trips. He went to his dealer and showed it to him. The dealer picked up the phone and said, "Give me Joe in the stock room." He said, "Joe, have we got any pieces of rare jade in the stock room?" Joe said, "Yes, we have a lot of it." So my friend took another trip. He found a piece of parchment identical to the parchment carrying the message of the Magna Charta. He took it to his dealer and showed it to him and said, "This is the rarest piece of parchment in the world." The dealer picked up the phone and said, "Give me Joe in the stockroom." He said, "Joe, have we got any of that rare parchment like they used to write the Magna Charta on?" Joe said, "Sure, we've got lots of it!" So my friend took another trip. This time he went to Egypt. He visited the tomb of King Tut and found a mummified ear. He took it to his dealer and showed it to him and the dealer reached for the phone. My friend said, "Just a minute. Before you call Joe in the stock room, here's the other one."

* * * *

Bernie Bierman, the old gray eagle of the Minnesota Gophers, is noted for his lack of compliments more than any other coach in football history. He was bawling out one of his backfield men for doing everything wrong. He said, "You ran down the wrong side of the field, you didn't wait for your interference to form and you carried the ball in the wrong hand." The halfback said, "How was it for distance?"

* * * *

After examining an elderly patient the doctor said, "There's nothing wrong with you, Mrs. Smith, it's all in your imagination." "How much do I owe you," said Mrs. Smith. "Five dollars," was the reply. "Oh no, I don't," she replied, "You only imagine I do."

WorldRadioHistory

A nurse said to the supervisor, "That young man in room 1218 is handsome, isn't he?" The supervisor said, "Yes, he is. You will not need to wash his face today. That has already been done four times by four different nurses so far this morning."

* * * *

A New York lawyer went to California to try to locate a young woman who had inherited a fortune. A detective agency was called in to help in the search. The case was placed in the hands of a young, clever and handsome investigator. Several weeks passed and the lawyer was beginning to feel concerned. Then one day the young investigator showed up and told him he had located the heiress. "Wonderful," said the lawyer, "Where is she?" "At my apartment. We were married yesterday!"

* * * *

The very proper Englishman was determined to buy a good horse and he and his lady visited a horse trader in New York. The Englishman said, "My good man, I am looking for a horse with great speed, unusual endurance and outstanding performance." The horse trader said, "That's the one for you. You can get on him tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock and be in Philadelphia by midnight." Later his wife said, "How could you turn down such a beautiful animal?" and the husband replied, "I couldn't imagine being in Philadelphia at midnight."

* * * *

Self defense? The chief nurse came into the hospital room to find the student nurse standing next to a handsome male in the bed, holding both wrists of the young patient. "You don't have to hold both wrists to check the pulse!" the chief nurse exclaimed. "I am not holding both wrists to check his pulse, but to check his impulses."

WorldRadioHistory

Smith's neighbor was a compulsive borrower. Seeing his neighbor coming toward his house, he put his golf bag down and muttered, "He won't get away with it this time." "Will you be using your power saw this morning?" asked the neighbor. "I'm sorry," said Smith, "I'll be using it all day." "In that case, you won't be using your golf clubs — mind if I borrow them?"

* * * *

Baldwin, Wisconsin, was playing Bloomer, Wisconsin, in football and Baldwin won 21-7. One of the residents of Baldwin, reading the score in the paper, said, "I do hope the score didn't get them down."

* * * *

Any baseball team could use a man who plays every position perfectly, never strikes out and never makes an error. But how can you get him to put his hot dog down and come out of the stadium?

* * * *

The long married couple were in court and the Judge asked the husband, "Why did you hit your wife with the broom?" The old fellow said, "Well, Judge, she was leaning over looking into the oven, the broom was beside the door and the door was open."

* * * *

An expectant mother almost won her race to a hospital delivery room. With just a short way to go, the child was delivered on the hospital lawn by hospital staff members. When paying the bill on leaving the hospital, the angry father called the attention of the supervising nurse to a $50 item marked, "Delivery Room." Calmly the nurse crossed out the item and wrote in, "Green Fee".

WorldRadioHistory

A man was driving by the state mental institution when he had a flat tire. He took off the hub cap and put all of the nuts from the wheel in it and went around to get the spare tire. At this point a passing car hit the hub cap and scattered the lugs to the four winds. What's furthermore the spare tire had only one lug. The motorist decided to walk to town and get some new lugs for the wheel. An inmate inside the fence said, "Hey Buddie, why don't you take one of the lugs off each of the wheels and put them on the spare tire and drive to town?" The motorist said, "Why didn't I think of that. You've come up with a brilliant idea and you are an inmate of this institution?" The inmate replied, "I'm in here because I'm crazy — not because I'm stupid."

* * * *

A man went into the psychiatrist's office and said, "Doc, I keep imagining that I am engaged to an octopus." The psychiatrist said, "We'll give you some treatments and I think we can cure you." Finally the day arrived when the doctor felt the patient was cured. "Thank heavens," said the patient, "I kept worrying about how I was going to pay for eight engagement rings."

* * * *

After a country wedding back at the turn of the century, the bride and bridegroom climbed into his wagon and started for the farm. A short ways down the road the horse stumbled. "That's one," shouted the farmer. They continued on and the horse stumbled again. "That's two," shouted the farmer. As they neared the farm house the horse stumbled again. "That's three," shouted the farmer and he reached behind the seat for a gun and shot the horse in the head. The bride was stunned and began to tell her new husband what she thought of his action. He sat quietly until she stopped and pointed his finger at her and shouted, "That's one!" The couple lived happily for fifty-five years.

WorldRadioHistory

Maynard

The housekeeping supervisor in a prominent hotel saw a new maid coming out of a room she knew was occupied. So she said, "Don't you know better than to clean up a man's room while he is still in it?" And the maid said, "Yes, Ma'am, I do now."

* * * *

The policeman said to the lost child, "Don't cry little boy, we'll find your Dad. What's he like?" The boy replied, "Beer and women."

WorldRadioHistory

A politician, who had changed his views rather radically, was congratulated by one of his supporters. "I'm glad you've seen the light," he was told. "I didn't see the light," was the terse reply. "I felt the heat."

* * * *

It is said you can always tell a man's nationality by introducing him to a beautiful girl. An Englishman shakes the girl's hand, a Frenchman kisses her hand, an American asks for a date and a Russian wires Moscow for instructions.

* * * *

A lovely blond was about to enter a phone booth and the men in line behind her sighed. Realizing their concern she said sweetly, "Don't be concerned. I'll only be a few seconds. I just want to hang up on him."

* * * *

An elderly man was applying for relief and the girl who was interviewing him asked, "Do you owe any back house rent?" He straightened up with dignity and said, "Ma'am, we've got modern plumbing."

* * * *

A minister, accompanied by two lovely young girls from his parish, was walking along a trout stream. A fisherman walked by and said, "Any luck?" "Sir," replied the minister with dignity, "I'm a fisher of men." "Well," replied the fisherman glancing at the girls, "you have the right bait."

* * * *

If wives really knew what secretaries think of their husbands, they would not worry.

WorldRadioHistory

A man can sit outside and watch a football game in eleven degree weather for three hours and then discover the cold when he has to take the garbage out for his wife.

* * * *

When a woman refuses to tell her weight, you can be sure she weighs one hundred and plenty.

* * * *

The advertising executive said to the television star, "Would you introduce our TV dinner for $2000?" "Listen", she answered, "for $2000 I'd even eat it."

* * * *

Your conscience can't keep you from doing wrong, but it can do a lot to keep you from enjoying it.

* * * *

It is very hard to fight temptation. There is always the nagging thought — it may not come again.

* * * *

Some girls will go with any worm when they are fishing for a husband.

* * * *

The best thing about the future is that it only comes one day at a time.

* * * *

Cal said to his friend, "I know a fellow who got into trouble being frank and earnest." His friend said, "How could that happen?" "Well, he was Frank in San Francisco and Ernest in Los Angeles."

WorldRadioHistory

Tony was delighted when his wife had a son. "Gonna give him a plain American name," he announced proudly. "Gonna call the bambino, Tom, just plain Tom." The birth certificate came back as Thomas. Tony let it go at that. When the second son was born, Tony went to the registrar in the birth certificate office. "Looka here, you. Last year I had a bambino and I named him Tom and you made him Tom-as. Thisa one's gonna be Jack. And I don't want any more trouble with you!"

* * * *

Girls who string a man along are only trying to find out if he's fit to be tied.

* * * *

An owner and publisher of a newspaper in the old days was a great concern to his accounting department. When he needed some money, he would go down to the business office and take what he wanted out of the cash drawer. After a young bookkeeper had spent hours trying to balance the records, he asked the gentleman to put a slip in the drawer when he took money out of the drawer. He kept his word and the next time he went to the drawer he left a note saying, "Took it all."

* * * *

If you ever have to buy top soil, you'll find that even dirt is no longer cheap.

Sometimes being in a three generation household can present problems, especially when grandfather, father and grandson all answer to the same name. A wife in this situation answered the phone one day and said, "Bob, the father, Bob, the son, or Bob, the holy terror?"

WorldRadioHistory

We should live and learn; but by the time we've learned, it's too late to live.

* * * *

No matter how love sick you may be — don't take the first pill that comes along.

* * * *

"So you run a duck farm? Business picking up?" "No, picking down."

* * * *

Did you hear about the barber convicted of income tax evasion — seems he was taking too much off the top.

* * * *

A man was asking for donations for the new children's home. He said to the tired housewife, "I hope you'll give what you can." The mother said, "I'll give you two children."

* * * *

Do you realize that Adam and Eve were the first couple to raise Cain?

* * * *

Wealthy Grandpa Kensington was quite hard of hearing and finally decided to get a hearing aid. Several weeks later he stopped at the office, where he had procured the hearing aid, and told the manager he could hear very well now and even conversation in the next room. "Your relatives must be glad you are able to hear now," beamed the manager. "Oh, I haven't told them," chuckled Grandpa, "I've been sitting around listening and do you know what? I've changed my will twice already."

WorldRadioHistory

My older brother, Harold, was in the Navy during W.W. II and wound up as a Lt. Commander and Captain of his own ship. He was telling me about a stuttering sailor, who ran up to him on the bridge one day and said, "O Captain —" He stuttered and stammered and his face got red and he couldn't say a word. So my brother said, "Forget it!" The sailor ran over to the first mate and said, "O Mr." Again he couldn't say another word. He ran all over the ship trying to get someone to listen to him and finally came back to my

WorldRadioHistory

brother. Again he couldn't spit out a word. My brother said, "For the Lord's sake man, if you can't say it, sing it." And to my brother's amazement the sailor sang out, "Should old acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind, your darned old cook fell overboard and he's twenty miles behind."

* * * *

I was at Fort Snelling at the beginning of World War II at the induction center. If you don't know about army induction centers, let me describe how it happened. You are ordered to take off all your clothes and stand in line. You go from one station to the next, where various specialists go over you with a fine tooth comb. You are given a sheet of paper and they say, "Take your paper and go to the next station." The man in front of me was Andy Uram, A Gopher Great at the University of Minnesota. He had hair all over him, not only on his chest and tummy, but on his back. There were two soldiers at this station, one typing like mad with two forefingers and the other dictating the color of his eyes, color of hair, height, weight, etc. Without a break in the dictation, the soldier said to Andy, "Take your paper and your fur coat and go to the next station."

* * * *

A traveling salesman spoke to a beautiful blonde by herself in a restaurant and said, "Would you care to join my expense account?"

* * * *

The church usher had served faithfully for many years. The retiring usher was instructing his successor in some details of the job. He said, "Remember that we have only good and kind Christian ladies and gentlemen in this congregation until you try to put someone else in their pew."

WorldRadioHistory

When Mary came home from work one evening she said, "Mother, a young fellow flirted with me in the subway. He walked me home and he wants to marry me. He said he would put the earth at my feet." The Mother said, "Mary, you are thirty years old. You've already got the earth at your feet. What you need is a roof over your head."

* * * *

At a bridge game at the club one of the players said, "For heavens sake, partner, What in heaven's name did you bid no trump on? I had four aces and three kings." "If you really want to know — one king, two queens and four drinks!"

* * * *

Signs of middle age: When the torso becomes more so — when it takes you half as long to get tired and twice as long to rest up — when your robust chest changes places with your slim waist.

* * * *

Did you hear they are putting a clock in the leaning tower of Pisa? They're working on the theory that there's no point in having the inclination unless you've got the time.

* * * *

They tell a story about Enrico Caruso driving through the hills of Pennsylvania back in the early 1900's when cars were not too dependable. His car broke down and Caruso walked up to a little Dutch farm house. He explained his difficulty and asked if he might stay over night. The farmer said "Sure — what's your name?" He replied, "Caruso." The farmer was pleased and excited. He said, "Imagine me, a little old Dutch farmer, playing host to the famous Robinson Caruso!"

WorldRadioHistory

A minister visited a family where the father had just died. He asked the young son, "What were your father's last words?" "He didn't have any," said the son. "Mamma was with him to the end."

* * * *

There is another story about the farm wife who started to yawn and discovered she couldn't close her mouth. The husband called the doctor and said, "This is John Anderson. My wife started to yawn and she can't close her mouth. She can't talk and I wondered if you'd drop in sometime in the next week or so!"

* * * *

A young student from the agricultural college was looking over the farmer's orchard. "You need new methods of cultivation," said the student. "I am sure you won't get more than 10 pounds of apples from that tree this year." "I agree," said the farmer. "It's a pear tree."

* * * *

The teacher asked Joe to tell her where elephants were found. After hesitating briefly Joe said, "Elephants are such big animals they hardly ever get lost."

* * * *

"I've never seen such dreamy eyes," he said. "You've never stayed so late before," she replied.

* * * *

The farmer said to his new hired hand, "What did you mean by telling me you had five years experience when you had never had a job before?" The hired hand replied, "You advertised for a man with imagination."

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A man went to the doctor and asked him to look at his ailing knee. After an examination the doctor asked, "How long have you had this condition?" "Two weeks," the patient said. "Why did you wait so long to come here?" said the doctor. "Because, doctor, everytime I say there's something wrong with me, my wife insists I stop smoking."

* * * *

Jo met John and stopped on the street to chat. "Why is it, John, you used to be so happy and gay and now that you're married you are so grouchy?" "When I was courting my wife she always talked about her buried treasure. So I proposed and she accepted," said John. "But why should that make you unhappy?" said his friend. "Because after we were married I found out her buried treasure was her first husband."

* * * *

Jack O'Brien tells the story told by a priest in Kansas City. A big plane had just lifted itself over the city and one of the motors began to spit and sputter. The stewardess looked concerned and told the passengers to fasten their seat belts, they were going to make an emergency landing. A priest, in trying to solace her, said, "Tell your pilot not to worry. We have eight bishops aboard." She went forward, came back and reported: "I told him Father, and he said he'd rather have four engines."

* * * *

The angry politician stormed into the newspaper editor's office and said, "What do you mean by insulting me in your old newspaper?" The editor replied, "The article appeared exactly as you gave it to us — you resigned as city treasurer." "It did. But where did you put it? Under the column heading 'Public Improvement!' "

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An avid baseball fan was persuaded by a friend to go to the horse races. Being a new experience for him, he picked a 50-1 long shot and put $2 on the nose. Coming into the stretch, the longshot horse was neck and neck with the favorite. As they neared the wire for a photo finish, the baseball fan screamed, "Slide, you bum! Slide."

* * * *

The boss said to the employee, "You have already had time off to see your wife off on a journey, to go to your mother-in-law's funeral, for your son's operation and your little girl's measles, what is it now?" The employee replied, "I'm going to get married, sir."

* * * *

A preacher went to his doctor as he had not been feeling too well. After an examination, the doctor told him he had a heart condition and that he should take things easier. Something that might help you to relax is to take a little brandy. The preacher objected strenuously and said that he had been a lifelong teetotaler and that he wouldn't want to set a bad example. "I'm prescribing it as a medicine, not as a drink," said the doctor. "You shave everyday, don't you? Why can't you take your brandy medicine when you shave?" A month later the doctor met the preacher's son and inquired about his father's health. "He seems all right," the son replied. "In fact, you found some trouble with his heart, but he doesn't seem to be having any trouble now." The boy hesitated and said, "It's the funniest thing. We can't figure it out. Dad is now shaving three times a day."

* * * *

The doctor told his patient, "The best thing for you to do is to give up smoking, drinking, running around and you must keep strict hours." The patient said, "I don't really deserve the best. What's second best?"

WorldRadioHistory

My Mother was a very frugal woman out of necessity rather than choice, but she had one weakness — auction sales. I remember she came home from a sale just before supper on a Saturday night. She told my dad that she'd bought a big old grandfather's clock at an auction sale and she wanted my Dad to go and get it. My Dad was tired and didn't want to go, but he hitched up the team and drove to town and went over and got the clock. He was carrying it back to the wagon, hitched

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on the opposite side of the local saloon. Just as he got opposite the door of the saloon, a drunk staggered out and knocked him down. There he was on the ground with that big grandfather clock clutched in his arms. Normally my Dad was a very patient man, but this was just too much, so he said to the drunk, "Why don't you watch where you're going?" And the drunk said, "Why don't you wear a wrist watch like everyone else?"

* * * *

The golfer said to the caddy, "You must be the worst caddy in the world." The caddy replied, "Hardly sir. That would be too much of a coincidence."

* * * *

There is a story told about Arnold Palmer, who was introduced to a man wearing dark glasses and carrying a white cane. The man said he was a champion golfer. Palmer, rather surprised said, "I'm sorry, I have never heard of you." He said, "Perhaps not. I'm the national champion blind golfer. We learn to play golf in much the same fashion as the unfortunates in wheel chairs who play basketball. I was wondering if we could stage a golf tournament for the benefit of the handicapped." Arnold Palmer said, "Sure. I'll be glad to after the PGA tournament is over." The blind man said, "I don't want any sympathy, but I would like to play you for $50 a hole." Arnold said, "But that wouldn't be fair. I'd be taking advantage of you." The blind man replied, "No, I insist. This is the way I want it." So Palmer said, "If you insist — O.K. When do you want to play?" He replied, "Any night at all, Arnold. Any night at all."

* * * *

"So you met your wife at a dance? That must have been romantic." "Not particularly. I thought she was home taking care of the kids."

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A man said to his friend, "I love the Swiss Alps. They have given me some of my happiest moments." His friend said, "You have never been to Switzerland!" "No, but my wife has."

* * * *

The girl's lips quivered as they came near to his. His whole body trembled as he looked into her eyes. Her chin vibrated and his body shuddered as they embraced each other. There is a moral to this: Never kiss a girl in a jeep with the engine running.

* * * *

You heard about the two octopi strolling down the beach arm in arm — arm in arm — arm in arm —

* * * *

Did you hear about the centipede who crossed her legs and said, "No, no, a thousand times no!"

* * * *

The little farm girl went to church for the first time. After the service the minister asked her how she enjoyed it. She said, "I thought the music was very nice, but your commercial was too long."

* * * *

An old hunter gave this as the est way to catch a porcupine: "Watch for the slapping tail as you dash in and drop a large tub over the animal. This will give you something to sit on as you plan your next move."

* * * *

The young folks hope to see America first. The old timers hope to see it last.

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Tomorrow never comes, but the morning after certainly does.

* * * *

A determined young matron walked into the bank and up to the paying teller window. "I want to know how much money my husband drew out of this bank last week," she said in an angry voice. "I'm sorry, madam", said the teller, "but I cannot give you that information." "But you're the paying teller, aren't you?" "Yes, but I'm not the telling teller."

* * * *

Did you hear about the French horn player whose wig fell into his instrument? He spent the rest of the evening blowing his top.

* * * *

The master of ceremonies at a high school class reunion went up to a girl, who was wearing a strapless evening dress. He said, "I should like to introduce Mr. Jones, who is an authority on structural engineering, and he wants to ask you something."

* * * *

A class reunion is a time when old classmates get together to see who's falling apart.

* * * *

Since the time of Adam and Eve, it's always been the same. The downfall of a man, is the upkeep of a dame.

* * * *

Some men marry for looks, but not the kind they get when they come home late for dinner.

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An elderly Ohio State University professor and his wife were on a motor trip to Canada to visit their new grandchild. The daughter had asked for the family heirloom cradle for the baby and it was in the back seat of the car on top of the luggage. When the travelers stopped for the customs at the Canadian border, the officer inspected the cradle, looked at the gray-haired gentlemen and walked around the car and looked at the little lady. Returning to the professor he said, "Drive on sonny, Canada needs you."

* * * *

A nagging wife complained about not feeling well. Her husband called the doctor and when he got there he put a thermometer in her mouth and told her to keep absolutely quiet for five minutes. The amazed husband said, "Doc, what will you take for that thing?"

* * * *

The firing squad was lined up and they blindfolded the prisoner. The director gave the signal for the squad to shoot. Suddenly the prisoner shouted, "Fidel Castro is a bum." The director of the firing squad stopped everything and walked over to the prisoner and said, "Do you want to get yourself in trouble?"

* * * *

The firing squad was escorting a Russian comrade to his place of execution. It was a dismal march on a rainy day. "What a terrible morning to die," muttered the prisoner. "What are you kicking about?" asked a guard. "We gotta march back in it."

* * * *

The boy and girl were sitting on the park bench one evening and the boy proposed. The girl said, "No. But that answer is subject to change without notice."

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Two little old ladies were visiting the zoo and they came to the monkey island, but there were no monkeys in sight. They asked the zoo keeper, "Where are all of the monkeys?" He replied, "This is the mating season and they are all inside." One of the ladies said, "Do you think, if we got some peanuts and threw them into the yard that they would come out?" The zoo keeper replied, "Would you?"

* * * *

"My sister isn't very good looking, but she sure is lucky," said little Johnny to his friend. "How come?" said his friend. "She went to a party the other night and they played a game where the boys had to kiss the girl or else pay her a box of candy." "Well, how was your sister lucky?" "She came home with ten boxes of candy."

* * * *

Wife: "Is it true that money talks?"
Husband: "Well that's what they say, but with inflation these days it just whispers."
Wife: "I get so lonely when you're gone, leave enough when you leave today so I can hear it."

* * * *

The henpecked husband was complaining about his wife. A close friend said, "Why don't you talk over your troubles with your wife. Just be calm, be rational and objective." The henpecked husband said, "Carrying on a two-way conversation with my wife is like trying to take a drink out of a fire hydrant."

* * * *

"Did you give your wife that talk on economy you talked about?" "Yes, I did." "Did you get any results?" "I have agreed to give up smoking."

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A broken-down actor friend of mine in New York was desperate for a job. He called a booking agent and explained his problem. He said, "Can't you get me something, even a bit part?" The booking agent said, "I think I've got just the thing you're looking for. We have a play opening in Stanford, Connecticut tonight. If you'll dash home and pack your bag, I'll have someone meet you at the railroad station with the ticket." The actor said, "What is my part?" and the booking agent said, "You've only one line — 'Hark! Hark! the lark the cannons roar.' " The actor said, "Fine." So he rehearsed his lines all the way home and down to the railway station. A man met him at the railway station

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and said, "Are you Hark! Hark! the lark the cannons roar?" He said, "Yes." So the man said, "Here is your ticket. You barely have time to catch the train." All the way to Stanford he rehearsed his line and when the train pulled into Stanford a fellow met him and said, "Are you Hark! Hark! the lark the cannons roar?" He said, "That's me." The fellow said, "There's your taxi, your costume is on the seat and by the time you change into it you'll be at the theatre. You'll just have time to make it." So the actor jumped into the cab and by the time he changed into his costume the cab pulled up by the theatre door. The doorman said, "Are you Hark! Hark! the lark the cannons roar?" He said, "Yes." and the doorman shoved him on the stage. At that point the cannon went off with a terrible bang and the actor looking out over the audience said, "What the hell was that?"

* * * *

Neighbor to a small dirty boy: "I've heard of the soil bank, but aren't you overdrawn?"

* * * *

Jane said to Alice, "You look worried. What is the matter?" Alice said, "I'm trying to make up my mind about going to a wedding tomorrow." "Who's getting married?" asked Jane. Alice said, "I am."

* * * *

A milkman making his rounds found a note asking for 52 quarts of milk. The milkman knocked on the door and said, "Lady, I think someone is playing a trick on you. The note says 52 quarts and I'm sure you don't want that much milk." She said, "Yes, I do." He said, "What are you going to do with that much milk?" She said, "I'm going to take a bath in it." He said, "Can I pour it in the tub for you?" She said, "Yes, that would be nice." He turned to go and said, "Pasteurized?" She said, "No, just up to my chin."

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A tomcat and his girl friend were courting on the back fence when the tomcat leaned over to her and said, "I'd die for you, you beautiful creature." The girl friend gazed at him longingly and asked, "How many times?"

* * * *

Newlywed discussing married life: "All my wife can do so far is open cans and charge accounts."

* * * *

The office boy said to the woman who had asked to see the boss, "I'm sure he will see you. He always has time to kid around with a classy dame." The woman said, "Really? Then tell him his wife is here."

* * * *

Marital tension can be avoided if the husband plants a vegetable in his own back yard instead of trying to cultivate a tomato at his office.

* * * *

Joe said to Mike, "Where did you meet your wife?" "At a travel agency." Joe said, "Where were you going?" Mike said, "I wasn't going anywhere, but she wanted a vacation and I was the last resort!"

* * * *

One good thing about having your children home from school is it takes your mind off your other troubles.

* * * *

A sixth grade boy was explaining a broken window to the school principal. "I was cleaning my slingshot and it went off."

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You can always spot a well informed man. His views coincide with yours.

* * * *

The husband was quarreling with his wife and getting the worst of it. "You didn't have a rag on your back when I married you," he screamed. "No," she replied, "but I've got plenty now."

* * * *

A young Mother looked into her child's bedroom and found her small son laboriously putting a bandage on his thumb. "What happened?" exclaimed the frightened Mother. "I hit it with a hammer," said the boy. "You poor dear," said the Mother, "I didn't hear you cry." "What was the use of crying," said the boy, "I thought you were out."

* * * *

A policeman accompanied a man who had been injured to the hospital. On the way in the ambulance he asked him about his occupation. The man replied "I'm an ex-steeplejack." "When did you give up your trade?" asked the policeman. "About halfway down," was the answer.

* * * *

Mike was back home from college for the holidays. One day he said to his Mother, "May I tell you a narrative?" The Mother was not used to hearing such big words and said, "What is a narrative, my son?" "A narrative is a tale." When going to bed that night Mike said, "May I extinguish the light, Mother?" "What does extinguish mean?" "It means put out," said Mike. A few days later the Mother was giving a party and the dog walked in. Mike's Mother raised her voice and said: "Mike, take that dog by the narrative and extinguish him."

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Three recruits are going through the line at the army induction center. The supply sergeant asked the first guy in line, "How many sets of underwear do you need?" And he said, "Seven." The sergeant said, "Why seven?" He said, "Well there's Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday — — " The sergeant said, "O.K." He said to the next guy, "How many suits of underwear do you need?" And he replied, "Eight." "Why eight?" said the sergeant. He said, "You know there is Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday — — and one to wear while I'm washing the other seven." He said, "O.K." Then the sergeant said to the third inductee, "How many suits of underwear do you need?" He said, "Twelve." So the sergeant said, "Why twelve?" And he said, "January, February, March, April, — —"

* * * *

As the doctor started to write an order for the nurse she said, "Doctor, you are trying to write with a rectal thermometer." Whereupon he replied, "I wonder where I left my pen?"

* * * *

A young fellow was looking at diamond rings in a jewelry store and said to the clerk, "How much is this one?" The clerk said, "$500." The young man looked startled and gave a weak whistle. He pointed to another one and said, "And this one?" The jeweler said, "That one is two whistles."

* * * *

Playing cards can be expensive, but so can any game where you hold hands.

* * * *

"Hello John. Haven't seen you in a long time. Who are you working for now?" "Same people — wife and seven children."

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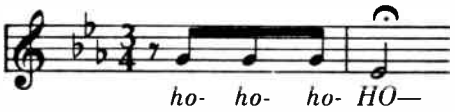
The great composer, Beethoven, was working in his study on a composition when the cleaning woman burst into the room, not realizing he was there. She apologized profusely and said she would come back later to do the cleaning. He said, "That won't be necessary - go ahead with your work. You could be an inspiration to me". "Me — be an inspiration to you?



she laughed as she left the room.

* * * *

A woman who was religious and had concern for others saw a ragged and down-and-out sort of man standing on the corner near her house. One morning she was going grocery shopping and as she came to the man she pressed a dollar bill into his hand and whispered, "Never despair." The next time she saw him he stopped her and gave her nine dollars. "What does this mean," she asked. "It means that 'Never Despair' won at 8 to 1."

* * * *

Shortly after two eighty-year-old spinsters checked into their Las Vegas motel, they noticed a smartly dressed man rushing from one man to the other, whispering something and collecting money. "What is that gentleman doing?" one of them asked a bellhop. "He's a bookie. He takes bets on horses." The other spinster said, "We are only young once. Let's call him over." They bet two dollars and lost. That evening the first spinster said to her friend, "You look worried. You shouldn't be concerned about the fact that we lost. It was only two dollars." "It isn't losing I'm worrying about. What would we have done if we had won that horse?"

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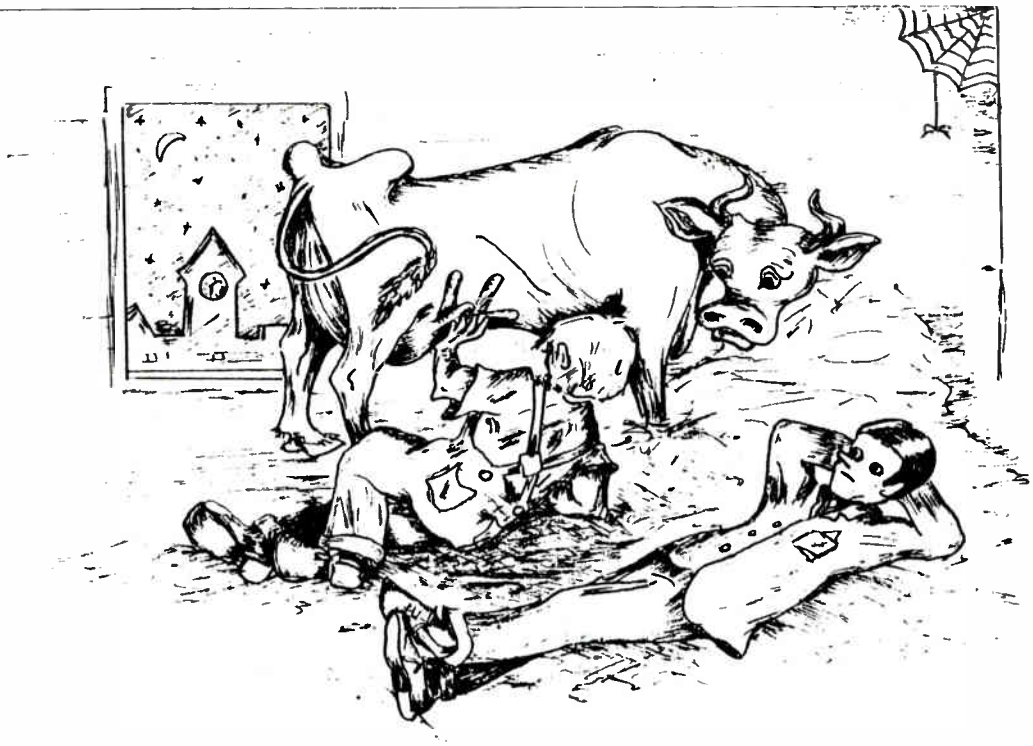

A traveling salesman was lost one night and stopped at a farmhouse. The farmer told the man that he had no room in the house, but he was welcome to sleep in the barn with the hired man. Having no choice, the salesman did so. He was restless in such an unfamiliar situation and couldn't sleep. Finally he asked the hired man what time it was. The hired man half rose from the straw, reached over to the cow next to him, lifted the udder, and said, "1:30 A.M." Still sleepless, the salesman much later asked the time again. Again the hired man reached over, lifted the cow's udder and said, "It is 4:30 A.M." Puzzled, the salesman the next morning asked the hired man how he could tell the time by lifting the cow's udder. "Oh, easy", the hired hand replied. "When I lift the udder, I can see the town hall clock."

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A widow and an old maid were talking over the back fence and the widow said, "This is my third husband and he asked that he be cremated. My first two husbands made the same request." The old maid said, "That's life for you — — some women can't get a husband and others have husbands to burn."

* * * *

St. Peter and the Devil were trying to get a baseball game started one day. St. Peter called the devil and he said, "I'm ready, I've got nine of the greatest baseball players who ever lived. Babe Ruth, Walter Johnson." And he went on to name all nine. The devil said, "You'll lose." And St. Peter said, "How can I lose? These are nine of the greatest baseball players who ever lived." The devil said, "Yes, but I've got all of the umpires."

* * * *

We got a new minister in our town,. who took on a project of trying to reform the town drunk. The minister saw the drunk staggering down the street one night, so he thought he would give him a good scare. He put on a devil costume, which was being used for a play being given at the church, and went out to meet the drunk. In an eerie voice he said, "Pat, do you know who I am?" Pat said, "No — who are you?" And the minister said, "I'm the devil." Pat said, "Shake — I'm married to your sister."

* * * *

The Mother and Father were getting ready for a party and the young son and daughter were watching from the doorway. First Mom fastened Dad's cuffs, then Dad zipped up the back of Mom's dress. Mom tied his tie and he fastened her pearls. The young girl turned to her brother and said, "I wonder why they expect us to dress ourselves?"

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We had that old grandfather clock for years. It chimed the hours, which was charming, but we boys discovered that my Mother would hear us come in late at night, would listen to see which room the footsteps went to and then wait for the clock to strike so she could tell when we got home. In the morning she would say, "Maynard, what time did you get home last night?" And hedging a little, I would say, "Oh — it was after midnight." And then she'd say, "Yes — almost two hours." One day when the folks were gone we started working on the clock to see if we could change it so it wouldn't chime. We thought we had it fixed. That night right after we got in, the clock chimed — 10 — 11 — 12 — 13 — 14 — 15. Dad jumped out of bed and yelled, "Come on boys — it's later than it's ever been!"

* * * *

After the farmer's frail wife had broken her leg, the doctor put it in a cast and warned her not to walk up and down stairs. After a month, the doctor removed the cast. "Can I climb the stairs now?" she asked. "Yes," said the doctor. "Good", she said. "I'm certainly tired of climbing up and down the drainpipe."

* * * *

The coach of the little league baseball team made notations about his players after their names on his roster, such as good arm, good hitter, good coordination, fast on the bases, good fielder and GLM. Someone asked him, "What does GLM stand for?" He grinned and said, "Good looking Mother."

* * * *

The judge spoke gravely to the woman and said, "So you deceived your husband!" "On the contrary, your honor, he deceived me. He said he was going out of town and he didn't."

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Small towns, for some reason, tackle big projects. While in high school we did the play "Romeo and Juliet" one year. I was selected to do Romeo and I was all excited. I had some difficulty in running lines together. At one point I was supposed to say, "Juliet, What have you done?" The director said, "No, Maynard, you don't seem to understand. Just say, "Juliet," and take a couple of breaths and then say, "What have you done?" So I said, "Juliet, sniff - sniff - What have you done?"

* * * *

Actually, you know, it wasn't the apple in the tree, it was the pair on the ground.

* * * *

Jim said to Harry, "I'm worried. It's raining and my wife is downtown." Harry said, "She'll probably step inside some store." Jim said, "That's why I'm worried."

* * * *

A teacher in a country school was teaching a lesson in antonyms. "What is the opposite of sorrow?" "Joy," said the class. "What is the opposite of pleasure?" "Pain." "And what is the opposite of woe?" "Giddap."

* * * *

Each year about the fourth of July the apple maggot begins laying her eggs in the apple. At harvest time the apples show fine brown lines caused by the tiny white maggot. While interviewing Tommy Aamodt one year at the Minnesota State Fair he said several people had asked him that day if the maggoty apples could be used for sauce? I asked him how he replied to that one. He said he told them those apples would make a high protein sauce, but he wouldn't advise them to eat it.

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I had a good friend who wanted to get into the beef cattle business, so I advised him to go to the county fair, where I would help him buy some good beef cows and a good bull. So he bought six short horn cows and a purebred bull. He loaded them into his truck and started home. On the way the cattle started getting unruly and broke the gate out of the truck. He stopped and pulled over to the side of the road. Two cows and the bull were missing. He found the cows, but he couldn't find the bull and since it was late on Saturday night, he decided to look for the bull the next day. He asked each person he met if they had seen a bull wandering loose. Finally two little ladies came along on their way to church. He didn't want to say bull in front of those two sweet little ladies, so he said, "Pardon me, have either of you seen a little red cow around here?" One of the women said, "No, but we did see a little red bull down the road a ways." And he said, "Well, that's her."

* * * *

Inflation has become so bad it has hit the price of feathers. Even down is up.

* * * *

The minister was ill. He went to the doctor and the doctor told him, "You are not seriously ill, but you'll have to take care of yourself or you will be. You should go to the mountains for three weeks or more and take a good rest." The minister protested that he had neither the money nor the time. "It's either the mountains or heaven", declared the doctor. The minister thought awhile and then grunted, "Very well, then — the mountains."

* * * *

Before I got married I said I was going to be boss, or know the reason why. I want you to meet the reason why. Where are you, Marigold? Stand up. (Maynard frequently used this method of introducing me at his speeches, especially whenever I was safely hidden away up in the balcony or in the back of the gym.)

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A wife at a cocktail party asked the hostess, "Where is that cute blonde who was serving cocktails a while ago?" The hostess said, "Are you looking for a drink?" The woman said, "No, I'm looking for my husband."

* * * *

A woman went to the doctor and complained she wasn't feeling well. The doctor examined her thoroughly and then started asking questions. He said, "Do you eat regularly?" She said, "Yes. There is nothing wrong with my appetite. I eat three hearty meals a day." "How about sleep?" She said, "I sleep eight hours every night." He said, "How often do you go to the bathroom?" She said, "I am very regular. I go at 6:30 A.M. and at 1:30 in the afternoon." The doctor said, "Well, I think I'll give you a shot of penicillin." Three little germs hearing the word penicillin started to talk about what they could do to avoid the antibiotic. One little germ said, "I think I'll hide behind her epiglottis." The second little germ said, "I'm going to hide behind her gall stone." The third little germ said, "You guys do what you want to, but I'm taking the 1:30 out of here."

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Photo Album

Maynard has a great collection of photographs, awards and trophies, from which we have made, more or less, a random selection to show here. This is a cross section of his photo collection and trophy room and is not any indication of the importance of events or people. Whether it be a Princess Kay judging, hog calling or rooster crowing event, participating in a discussion with an expert in agriculture or politics, or interviewing a farm family or youth in 4-H or FFA, the pictures reflect Maynard's ability to see fun in all situations and radiates his love and enthusiasm for people. His trophies from the many groups and organizations with whom he was associated show the high respect his colleagues have for him as well as a sincere appreciation and gratitude for his contributions to agri-business.

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Larry Haeg Sr. *George Larson*

EARLY YEARS
A NEW, STRONG
VOICE IN
AGRICULTURE

Charles Nelson

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WORKING
WITH
THE
EXPERTS

Lowell Hanson, Soils

Bill Hueg, Research (Currently Dean of the College and University Vice President)

E. J. Ferrin, Animal Husbandry

John Zeeler, Swine Research, U.S.D.A.

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Lawrence M. Winters, Animal Genetic
Waseca Station

John Lofgren
Entomology

Harold Macy, Beef and Grasslands
Dean of the Institute of Agriculture

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SPREADING THE WORD

To the producers

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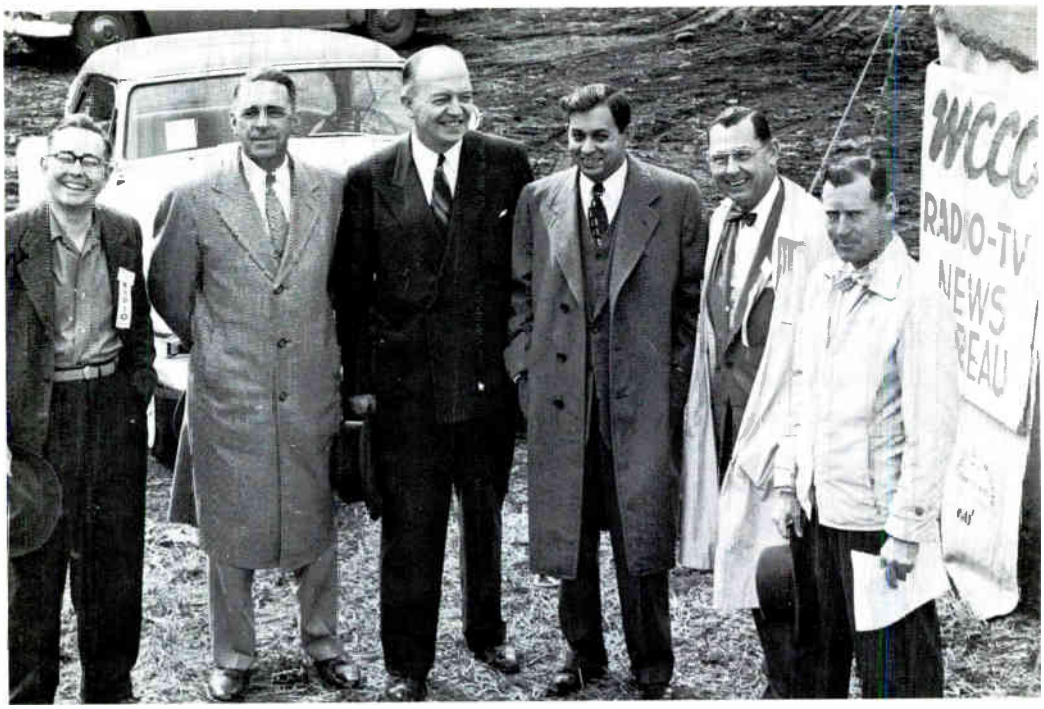

Jim Borman *Ancher Nelsen* *Harold Stassen* *C. Elmer Anderson* *Larry Haeg, Sr.*

AND

To the
politicians

Listen,
Mr. President

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MAYNARD INSPECTS THE PRODUCTS HE ADVERTISES

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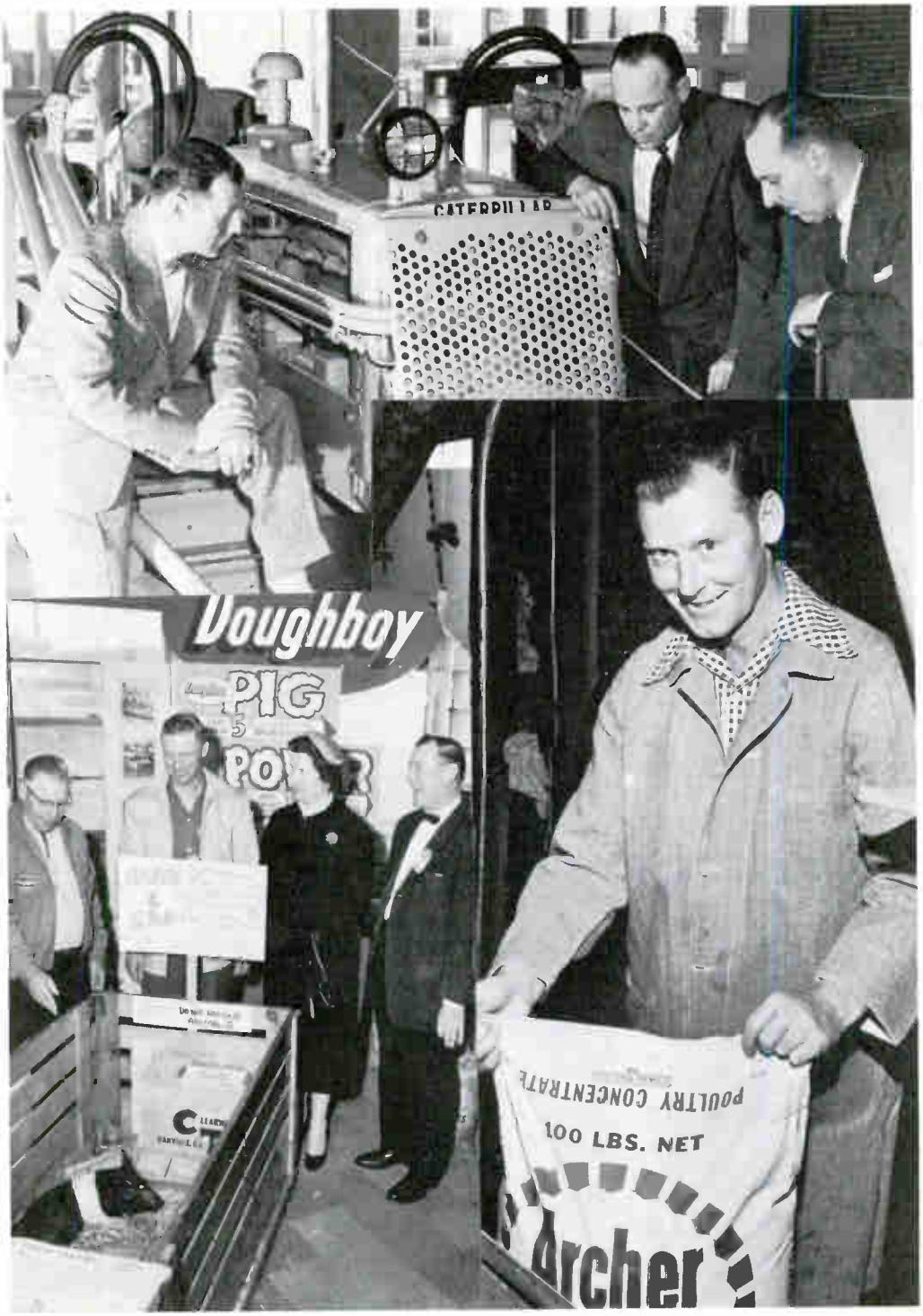

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DOWN ON THE FARM WITH THE PRODUCERS

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Maynard

WorldRadioHistory

WORKING
WITH
FARMERS
AND
FARM
FAMILIES

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MORE FOLKS

WorldRadioHistory

WorldRadioHistory

Maynard

WorldRadioHistory

WORKING WITH YOUTH

Larry Haeg, Sr. *Leonard Harkness*

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WorldRadioHistory

Maynard

WORKING WITH ROYALTY

Princess Kay of the Milky Way

Clockwise from above:

Princess Kathy Hjelle
Princess Linda Louwagie
Princess Lori Anshus and
Princess Julie Tessmer
Princess Diane Schroeder
Princess Judy Merritt

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The American Dairy Princess and Princess Audrey Meyer.

WORKING

Minnesota Pork Queen Doris Dose and friends.

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Princess Julie Tessmer with Maynard and Marigold at a Legislator's luncheon.

MORE ROYALTY

Princess Marilyn Christiansen and the regional candidates.

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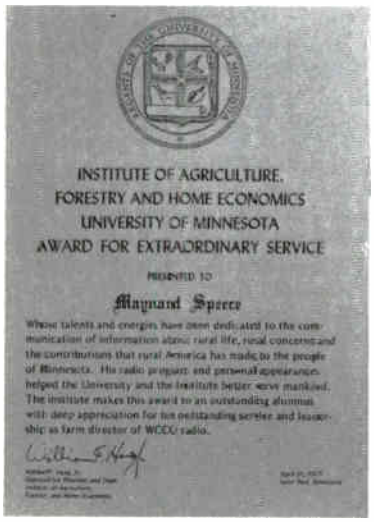
Harold Greenwood, Jr., presents Maynard with the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce's Distinguished Service Award, 1978.



INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE,
FORESTRY AND HOME ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE

PRESENTED TO

Maynard Speece

Whose talents and energies have been dedicated to the communication of information about rural life, rural concerns and the contributions that rural America has made to the people of Minnesota. His radio program and personal appearances helped the University and the Institute better serve mankind. The Institute makes this award to an outstanding alumnus with deep appreciation for his outstanding service and leadership as farm director of WCCO radio.

IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION TO
MAYNARD SPEECE
FARM SERVICE DIRECTOR WCCO RADIO

FOR 25 YEARS SERVICE TO
MIDWESTERN AGRICULTURE
NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER
NATIONAL AGRI-MARKETING ASSN.

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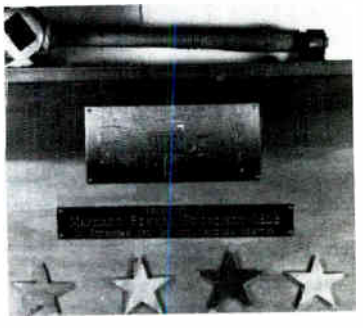
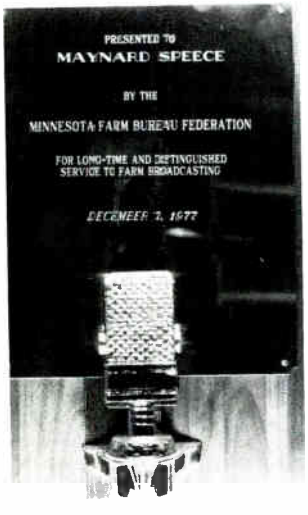
Harry Majors presents an award from the Conservation Society of America at a Twins games, 1976.



SOME OF THE AWARDS

University vice president, Stanley Wenberg, presents U of M Alumni Service Award, 1969.



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INVENTOR'S
CONGRESS
Redwood Falls

Bob Starr
Gordon Volkenant

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TALKING TURKEY
IN
BUFFALO

WorldRadioHistory

ON
THE
GO

Yokahama Joe
Crowing champ

Below: *Hog calling.*
Roger helps with a
little bribery.

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WORKING

Pioneering fast food

Roland Abraham *George Bohrer* *Leonard Harkness* *Woody Berg*

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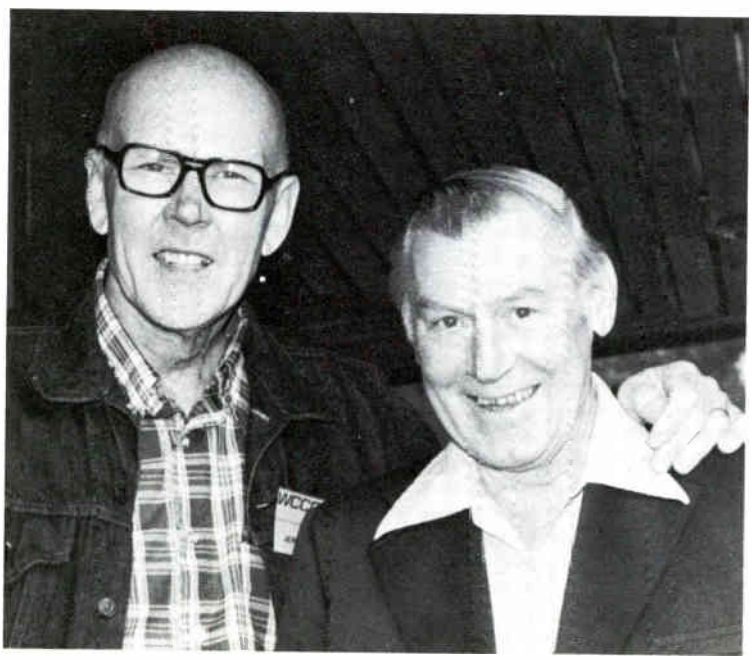

Roger Erickson

AT
THE
FAIR

Jurgen Nash

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Aboard the Queen Elizabeth II

AND A
LITTLE TIME OUT WITH MARIGOLD

Rose Mary and Bill O'Brien

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My Dad

by Maynard Speece, Jr.

Every son cherishes the times when his father delivers on some promise or boast. In addition to the traditional, "My dad can lick your dad," kids think their dads are the best golfers, catch the biggest fish, teach the best lessons about life, etc. Well, when your father is on the radio, unforseen hazards can present themselves.

Our fifth grade class was musing one fateful day on how best to acquire a phonograph for class use. Many possibilities were considered and rejected. Then word came from some anonymous source that Ewald Bros. Dairy Company had an unusual advertising campaign. It seems prizes were being awarded for the collection of wax paper caps to their school milk bottles. In fact 50,000 of these bottle caps would win the big prize — you guessed it, a phonograph.

Like ants, we kids scattered to the four winds in search of Ewald Bros. bottle caps. The whole school was in an uproar. Purchases of two bottles of milk were not uncommon. The grade schools in a wide area were tapped for the elusive caps. Yet with all this effort our room had only a few thousand caps. Clearly something else was needed.

"Gee, my Dad is on the radio and —" the whole class turned as one in my direction. Teacher and students alike knew that this was the way! That night I presented the concept to a bemused father, who incidentally deserved a better fate than that which awaited him. "Yes son, tomorrow on the radio I will ask my generous listeners to forward to me any unwanted Ewald Bros. bottle caps." Crowded around our desks the next day my class heard my dad's "please, bottle caps for my son so his class can have a phonograph!" Not even the imagination of

WorldRadioHistory

a fifth grader could conceive how events were to unfold. The fans of Maynard Speece were forthcoming with an overwhelming response. As if phonographs were the birthright of Minnesota school children, bottle caps rained upon WCCO Radio by the hundreds and then by the thousands — bottle caps, bottle caps everywhere! Drawers, desk tops, mailbags — whole rooms full of waxen discs bearing the heads of proud Guernseys.

Mercifully the mind of man can blot out certain traumatic memories of childhood, protecting the adult from particularly painful and wry circumstances. Imagine the honor of a ten year old at the end of a phone conversation between teacher and father, learning that both had trusted the other to verify the authenticity of Ewald's offer. A hoax! Ewald Bros. had made no such offer. Bottle caps were still inundating the 'CCO mailroom.

When the dust settled, Ewald Bros., appreciative of the advertising, and my teacher reconciled and our class received a phonograph, the actual details long since forgotten. Not anyone at school could remember how the rumor got started. My Dad cooled the ardor of his loyal fans and the stream of bottle caps ceased. Not so easily silenced were my father's peers. I can hardly imagine the staff meeting the following Monday morning at 'CCO Radio when the whole story was revealed. I have yet to start another sentence with, "Gee, my Dad's on the radio — ".

* * * *

As I think back, driving to Meadowlands for deer hunting in early November was always one of the best times. Confidently steering up the highway in his red and black checkered shirt, red hat and wrist compass my Dad would regale me with stories of personalities of the area and deer hunting friends. Every year the same stories were told and each time they were as fun as the first.

Tat Maguire hunted with Dad and Grandpa in the old days. Tat was a short, impatient Irishman, who possessed many good traits, but was incapable of standing still or of recognizing when he was being put on. It was impressed upon everyone in the gang that you were either driving the deer or standing like a statue in the shooting stand and that a statue should move not more than yards when the drive was underway. Deer are keenly aware of movement in the woods. Tat couldn't drive so he had to stand. It wasn't uncommon for Tat to sing

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One for the money Two for the show

and flail his arms at his sides to keep warm. You always knew, as you approached the end of the drive, if Tat was the stander because there was this singing in this Irish brogue and constant commotion to greet you. One year, unbelievably, Tat built a fire to warm himself and that was the last straw. Walking for over an hour through thick brush over a distance of one half to a full mile to be greeted by this guy jumping up and down in front a fire was too much. No self respecting deer in his right mind would be caught near Tat.

The whole gang resolved to play a trick on Tat. Timing was essential and it was near the end of that season that the situation presented itself. Some mangy old buck, against all logic, stumbled upon Tat and, remarkably, Tat killed him. It was the only deer Tat would get in his whole hunting "career". Grandpa closely inspected the animal while Tat told his story over and over of how he shot that big buck. Finally Gramps stood up clucking his tongue. Seconds passed. "Too bad," he murmured. My Dad leaned down and rolled back the deer's eyes, "Yep, damn shame." All the guys leaned in looking closely at the deer. "Too bad", was all anyone could say. Tat snorted, "Too bad what?" The men led by Gramps slowly filed away. Over his shoulder Gramps said, "Tuleremia." Tat stood still disbelieving what

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had befallen. As they kept walking toward the road, Tat cried out, "Tuleremia?" "Tuleremia — MEATS NO GOOD!", said one. The words pronounced final judgement on Tat's buck. Dejectedly, Tat thirty yards behind, followed the men out of the woods. After about fifty yards somebody laughed. Tat, shouting questions about the men's heritage, rushed back to his prize. Back at the farm, as was their custom, the deer was divided among the men, Tat getting first choice of the cut of meat. Now Tat and everyone else looked to Grandpa for guidance in these matters and he stroked the animal repeatedly at the nape of the powerful neck. That's just what Tat selected for his steaks and chops — the neck. With a look of triumph he loaded it into the car and took off for Minneapolis to take it to his butcher.

Lonnie and Maynard, 1981

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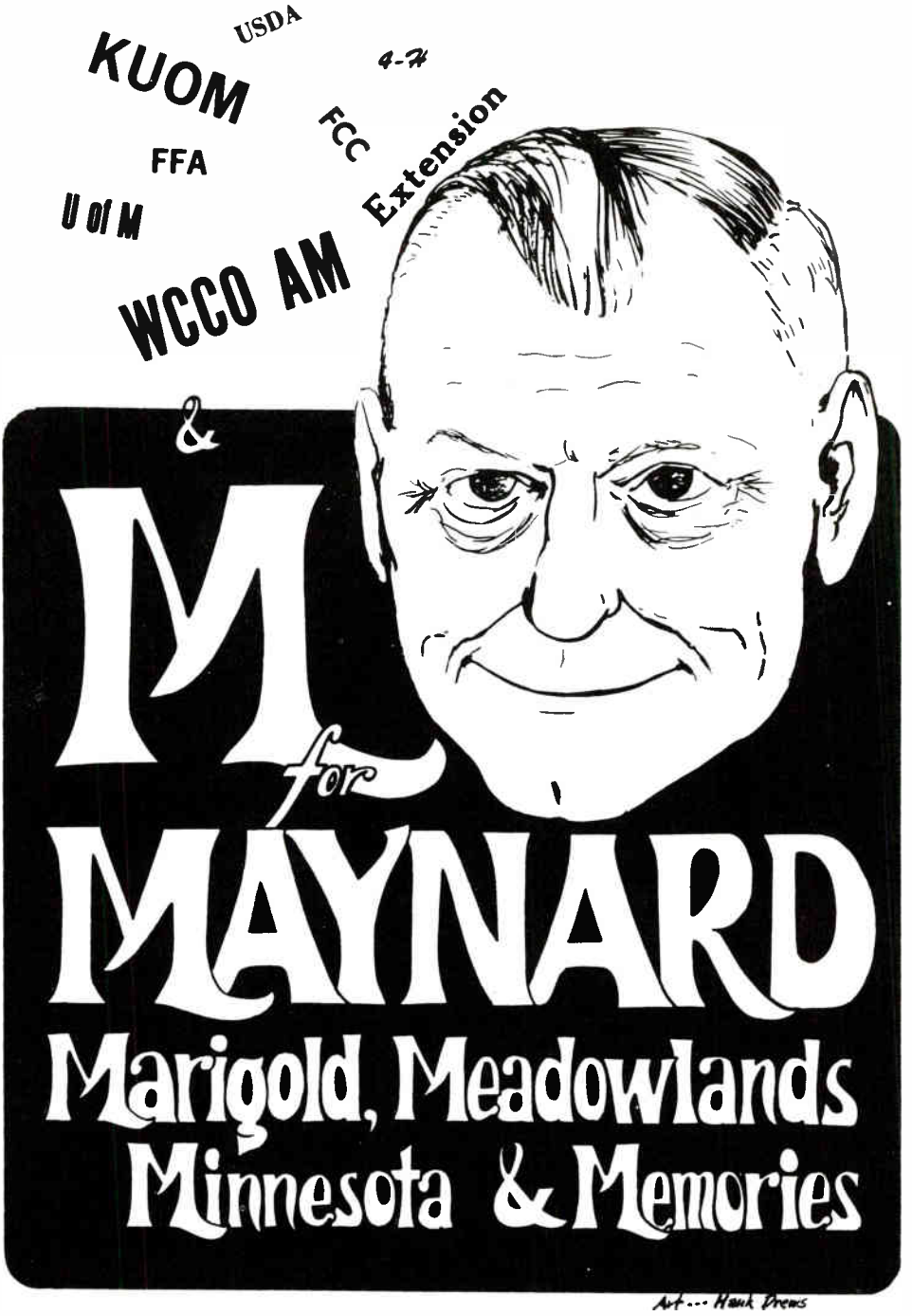

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The Truth About Maynard*

by Harold Swanson

Over 400 friends of Maynard gathered on April 21, 1978, at the Marriott Inn to pay their respects on his retirement and to celebrate M Day, *Maynard, Marigold, Meadowlands, Minnesota and Memories.* The occasion was sponsored by the University of Minnesota Institute of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics and cooperating agricultural groups.

The retirement roast was titled, *The Truth About Maynard* and centered on jokes, unique experiences, fanciful tales of imagined encounters, and sincere tributes for Maynard's long-time contributions to agriculture, radio, and the state of Minnesota.

The mood was light, and laughter predominated at this gala occasion. And who would be more appropriate as master of ceremonies than Maynard's long-time sidekick and co-conspirator during those early morning sessions on WCCO Radio — Roger Erickson? Who is the prime master of jokes (except Maynard, of course)? Who could deliver jokes — some good, some bad — better than Roger?

Roger though was faced with a formidable task. His, perhaps, was an impossible job — holding down the speeches and presentations of nearly 20 colleagues and friends of Maynard. He did it, limiting each to two minutes. Consider that he was dealing with University professors who thought in 45-minute periods, with University administrators who were intolerant of any time restraints, and with businessmen and farm representatives whose independence he was challenging. But it went well.

* An account as seen and recorded by Maynard's long-time friend, Harold B. Swanson of the University of Minnesota.

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Here are some of the highlights — all supposed to tell the truth — pure and unadulterated. Unfortunately no one really knows the truth about Maynard and, if they do, they have been enticed to remain silent by a variety of means: threat of exposure of their own foibles, or worse yet, retaliation by the master punster and needler himself.

Roger used the occasion tc read a poem he had composed. He admitted he had never written poetry before.

Twas the day of retirement
And all through the station
A few of us were feeling
A sense of elation.

At last we'd be free
Of this elfin-like man
With his tales and his memories
Of the two-story can.

The predicaments he causes
For us morning men,
By telling the punch line
The very moment when

We must go on live
In serious vein
On subjects profound
Such as hemorrhoid pain.

He giggles and he laughs
As he sees our dilemma
And goes on with a joke
About an old girlfriend named Emma.

Speaking of girls, there seems
To be an endless array.
Of conquests he made
Both past and today.

If we're to believe
His tales of romances,
There's hardly a girl
Who missed his advances.

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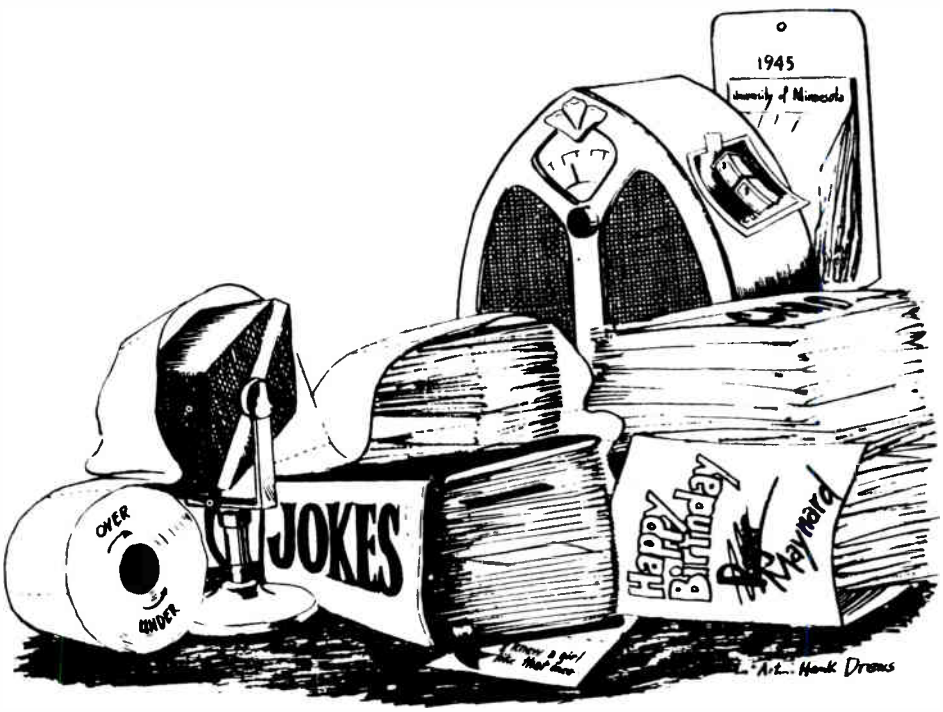
We learned so much more
From our friend Maynard Speece
Especially what the trains did
Between Long Siding and Pease.

Over and under,
How do you uncoil it?
The paper, I mean,
The one in the toilet.

So with a finger to his nose
And a twinkling of the eye,
Maynard prepared to tell us
All a goodbye.

As he cleared his desk
And got ready to go
He said, "Work hard, you slaves,
I'm going to blow."



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Then came the tributes and jokes. We'll protect the not-so-innocent by not identifying them specifically. A program is provided at the end of this section so you might guess if you'd like.

* We're here tonight to honor a man who knows how to laugh, a man who is one fantastic radio personality, one fantastic joke teller, one fantastic knowledgeable man. Well so much about Dr. William O'Brien. Now let's talk about Maynard Speece.
* Maynard, one participant maintains, had to be taken home from a 4-H event when he was a kid because he kicked over the traces. And that is something he has continued to do over the years.
* Before going to Washington, D.C., to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a short time, Maynard was interviewed by an unnamed U.S. Senator. He asked Maynard what he could do. Maynard replied, "Nothing," and the Senator immediately put his recommendation through stating, "Good, we won't have to train you."
* One farmer said that he had been listening to Maynard for 26 years while feeding his cows. He maintained that he furnished the feed and that Maynard furnished the bull for his herd.
* One participant maintained that Maynard had taught him to use only two minutes of five-minute interviews. Maynard would spend three minutes telling all he knew about the subject and then allow the guest two minutes.
* One former employer, commenting on hiring Maynard, said he had hired "that young pup but many times wished he would have drowned him."
* His last supervisor at the University (if anyone can supervise Maynard) maintained that the University had to move Maynard on for three reasons: 1) the fear that all of his students would become notorious joke tellers, or 2) worse yet, they would be addicted, inveterate pun-pushers,

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and 3) finally, Maynard himself would be a constant distraction with his all-consuming ability to charm the opposite sex.

At this point he was interrupted by the appearance of an attractive young lady who maintained that she had been waking up to Maynard for 10 years and he had become a sex symbol to her. She wanted to meet him and kiss him. Which she did, stating, "I don't go around kissing everybody." The University professor tried to forestall this interruption, but Maynard insisted, "Let the girl talk." After kissing Maynard, Roger, and the professor (the opposition melted), she continued with her tribute to Maynard as a sex symbol and implored the men in the audience to use him as a model.

* Another speaker stated that Maynard was always mentioning to Marigold, and whomever else would listen, that he was a model husband. It is reported that Marigold looked up the definition of a model and found that it is "a small imitation of the real thing."
* Many of his classmates graduated cum laude. However, their question when Maynard graduated was "Lordy, how come?" ("Laudy, how cum?")

And the jokes and tributes continued, and Maynard replied in kind but added serious words, too. Here's part of his response:

Looking out over this room I can't help but realize how fortunate I am to have all of you good people as my friends and college classmates. Ralph Miller, long-time University staff member, once said, "Maynard, you claim students from the University of Minnesota for classmates who were there ten years ahead of you and ten years after you left." There may be some truth to that. You learn in the radio business to exaggerate somewhat.

Oh my, I hardly know where to begin. I really appreciated that young lady who came up and sort of nailed down one thing on this whole business of being the "Senior Citizen Sex Symbol." I'll tell you how that works out. I was in this hotel one night and there was a knock at the door. I got up, opened the door and there was a beautiful

WorldRadioHistory

gal. She took one look at me and said, "Oh — my G— —! I must have the wrong room." I said, "Oh no! You have the right room, but you are thirty years too late."

We've had a lot of fun through the years and a lot of fun tonight. What can you say to a great University that you approached as a little, red-haired, freckled-faced boy so much in wonder of it all. All those great big buildings on that campus and that was only the Farm Campus.

Looking around at all of you, I think the greatest satisfaction I have had out of my life is rubbing shoulders with folks like you who make things happen. I have spent my productive life associating with great individuals in agriculture and with scientists and others at the University of Minnesota. I could go all the way around this room and give you example after example of the great contributions and the outstanding backgrounds of the people here tonight.

My satisfaction is knowing a people like you whom I respect and admire and can call my friends. You sort of feel they are pushing you up in the bleachers when you reach retirement age. I like it out there in the arena where it is happening — to be with the greatest and smartest people anyone could have ever met — people who know things, people who do things and people who are leaders in their field. How fortunate I have been because being in that kind of climate is a rare opportunity. I would like to sum it all up by saying:

THIS IS SUCCESS

To live well. To laugh often. To love much. To gain respect of intelligent men.
To win the love of little children.
To fill one's niche and accomplish one's task.
To leave the world better than one finds it, whether by an improved flower, a perfect poem or another life ennobled.
To never lack appreciation of earth's beauty or fail to express it.
To always look for the best in others.
To give the best one has.
To make one's life an inspiration and one's memory a benediction.

WorldRadioHistory

MAYNARD SPEECE TRIBUTE
April 21, 1978
Marriott Inn, Bloomington

PROGRAM

6:00 p.m. Reception – Social Hour

7:00 p.m. Dinner

8:00 p.m. Recognition Program

Master of Ceremonies
Roger Erickson, WCCO

"The Truth About Maynard"

Dean Curtiss, KDHL, Faribault
LaVern Freeh, Assistant Dean*
Leonard Harkness, State 4-H Leader*
William Matalamaki, Superintendent, North Central Experiment Station, Grand Rapids*
Mrs. Wayne Hulterstrum, Litchfield
Lloyd Peterson, Board of Regents*
Robert Rupp, Editor, THE FARMER
Russell Schwandt, Minnesota Agri-Growth Council
Harold B. Swanson, Professor*

Presentations:

W. J. Kortesmaki, State Department of Education
Edward Frederick, Provost, Technical College, Waseca*
Richard E. Swanson, County Extension Director, Anoka County*
Stanley Sahlstrom, Provost, Technical College, Crookston*
Vern Richter, Vo Ag Instructor, Watertown
William Walker, Commissioner of Agriculture
William F. Hueg, Jr., Deputy Vice President*
Marigold Speece

Response - Maynard Speece

Music by: Swanee Swanson at the Lowrey Organ
Sponsored by Minnesota Agri-Growth Council

*University of Minnesota

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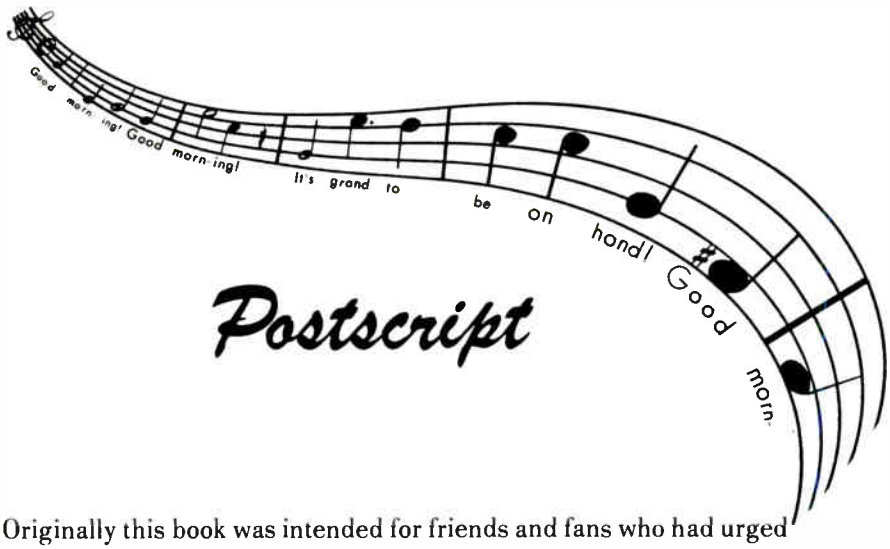

Postscript

Originally this book was intended for friends and fans who had urged Maynard to compile a collection of his favorite stories. Although the material is complete as it was told by Maynard some years ago, it now holds even more significance for those who love and admire him. Due to aphasia (speech disability), as a result of a stroke he suffered June 4, 1978, Maynard has lost the ability to share his stories. He has made a slow, but steady, recovery from the stroke. He works with a speech therapist, is learning to write with his left hand and swims at Courage Center twice a week.

Maynard is particularly proud of the work he did over the years to help the FFA raise money for Courage Center and other worthwhile projects. The letter we sent out to FFA advisors in 1979 helped raise $135,231, which was $40,000 more than was raised in the previous year. W. J. Kortesmaki, retired executive secretary of the Minnesota FFA, writes, "In researching and compiling material for my book, *Fifty Years of Minnesota FFA*, I am convinced that Maynard's voice over WCCO Radio made it possible for Minnesota FFAers in ten years to raise and release over 700,000 game birds, to have over 3,000 FFAers record precipitation with all-weather, rain and snow gauges, to distribute and install 40,000 SMV (slow moving vehicle) safety emblems, to plant over eight million trees, and to raise over one million dollars for Courage Center."

WorldRadioHistory

Maynard

Courage Center 3915 Golden Valley Road • Golden Valley, Minnesota 55422 • (612) 588-0811

September 19, 1979

Dear Future Farmers of America Advisor:

For many years, while Farm Service Director for WCCO radio, Maynard worked closely with the Future Farmers of America supporting their various projects. We were both impressed during that time with the FFA and their enthusiasm and interest in helping to build and support Camp Courage through their "Living to Serve" Corn Drives for Camp Courage. Little did either of us think that at some future time, Maynard would be a recipient of the services of Camp Courage.

Maynard suffered a stroke in June, 1978 and has been making a remarkable recovery. He now goes to Courage Center twice a week for therapeutic swimming. He has an opportunity to enjoy swimming and work on excercises to strengthen his paralyzed side. It has made both of us aware of the great services that Courage Center is providing for physically handicapped people.

As a result of the stroke, Maynard has aphasia, a language disability, but has indicated to me, non-verbally. his appreciation for Camp Courage and his eagerness for you to continue to make a greater effort than ever to promote Corn Drives for Camp Courage.

Most sincerely yours,

Marigold Speece

Marigold Speece
(Mrs. Maynard Speece)

MS:dje

P.S. Please return the enclosed card to courage Center.

Courage Center is a nonprofit organization providing medical and vocational rehabilitation, recreation, sports, camping, educational programs and residential services to people in the Upper Midwest with physical disabilities and speech, hearing and vision disorders.

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Bobbie Vickerman, Instructor

Maynard, as yet, cannot initiate conversation, but he understands what we say and he has a hearty, enthusiastic laugh. His personality, his sense of fun and joy in life, not only sparked his radio programs and speeches but also shines from his eyes now. He radiates his philosophy, "*some people endure life, I enjoy it!*"

It is a silent victory.

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Cover Photos

The Top of the Morning Boys
Maynard and Roger

Retirement day, 1978
Interviewing Phil Lewis
WCCO General Manager

Dr. William A. O'Brien

June 25, 1969

Dear Roger,
Played golf on Monday.
Went fishing Tuesday.
Got married on Wednesday.
Regards,
Maynard

Maynard: *What's the matter Roger?*
Roger: *Come on Maynard, you told the cow to kick!*

State Fair, 1962
and
Princess Kay
of the
Milky
Way
(Kathy Hjelle)

TV
Pioneering
in Washington,
1948

Ushering in the New Look

Meadowlands

Maynard with
sister Garnet

Broadcasting
KUOM (WLB)

Interviewing a farm family
for WCCO Radio

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ISBN 0-9[illegible]6-14-4 $7.95

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